



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 19/10/2012  
C(2012) 7028 final

Dear President,

*The Commission would like to thank the National Assembly of Bulgaria for its Opinion on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) {COM (2011) 425 final} and apologises for the long delay in replying.*

*The Commission welcomes that the National Assembly of Bulgaria subscribes to the principles for the reform of the CFP and is largely supportive of the Commission's proposals. In particular you point to the need to reinforce multi-annual management plans aiming at an eco-system based approach to fisheries management, to the need for sufficient and reliable scientific data and to the need for a discard ban as proposed by the Commission. You also refer to more regional management in decision making. Finally, you support the proposed introduction of transferable fishing concessions and the promotion of aquaculture.*

*This reform is about sustainability. The sustainable exploitation of healthy stocks is a driver for socio-economic sustainability: managing fishing activities at levels that allow maximum sustainable yields by 2015 means larger stocks with higher potential catches and consequently improved profitability of the fleets. But there is more to this: safeguarding the existence of sustainable coastal fisheries and fleets, and a strong position for producers on the markets is as much a part of the socio-economic dimension.*

*The Commission takes good note of your views on the development of cooperation between all Black Sea countries and the need for an effective regional advisory council for the Black Sea. The Commission is pleased to confirm to you that the Council in its General Approach from 13 June 2012 confirmed to establish an Advisory Council for the Black Sea by 2015 taking into account the ongoing discussions with all non-EU Black Sea countries in order to advise on conservation policy. We are convinced that this Advisory Council for the Black Sea can be instrumental in boosting co-operation between Bulgaria, Romania and our sea-basin neighbours in the Black Sea.*

Mrs. Tsetska TSATCHEVA  
President  
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*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided above address the main issues expressed in your Opinion and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the National Assembly of Bulgaria in the process of the reform of the CFP in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*