EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels 25.5.2016
C(2016) 3007 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Narodno Sabranie for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 {COM(2015) 636 final}.

The new Common Fisheries Policy sets clear objectives for the external dimension of fisheries, namely to ensure sustainable fishing by applying the same principles and standards to Union vessels' fishing activities whether these take place in Union waters or outside Union waters. The Commission therefore welcomes the Narodno Sabranie's support for the proposal which aims to reinforce the EU's capacity to monitor its external fishing fleet, thereby ensuring the conservation of marine biological resources and a more sustainable management of fisheries and the fleet exploiting those resources.

At the same time, the measures in the proposal relating to the authorisation of fishing activities by third country vessels in Union waters will ensure there is a level playing field for Union operators and third-country operators in Union waters.

The Commission shares the considerations expressed by the Narodno Sabranie and will continue to work on the promotion of a sustainable, ecosystem-based and precautionary approach to fisheries management in its internal and external dimension.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council in which your government is represented.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Narodno Sabranie and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Frans Timmermans   Karmenu Vella
First Vice-President   Member of the Commission

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