



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 15 MARS 2010
C(2010) 1303

Dear Ms Meldgaard,

The Commission thanks the Committees for their contribution to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) {COM(2009)163} by submission of a joint opinion.

The Commission notes that the Committees share the analysis of the situation as presented in the Green Paper, of the ensuing need for a comprehensive reform and of some of the key elements to be considered in a reform. The opinion includes valuable contributions to further develop the options for a future CFP which will help European fisheries to become sustainable and viable.

The Commission does see a need to establish a link between the various policy areas concerned which is why the CFP reform must be viewed as the framework of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Attacking overfishing and ensuring that fishery does not undermine the resilience of the marine ecosystems will be core aims of a reform.

The Commission appreciates that the Committees explain in some detail how the sector itself can be encouraged to take more responsibility for better selectivity and elimination of discards by establishing proper incentives, specifically through an optional system based on total catch quotas with a requirement for the industry to provide documentation. This is a constructive example of how our ideas about industry responsabilisation and reversing the burden of proof, which we raised in the Green Paper, could be implemented in practice.

The Commission agrees entirely on the need to ensure that good data are available for stock assessments and that ICES should be giving advice for all stocks and not just for certain stocks, as is presently the case. We believe that this is not something we need to wait for the reform to implement and that the combination of the new Data Collection Framework (in force from 1 January 2009) and the control regulation will help us a long way in getting reliable data on catches and landings. We are also, in our agreement with ICES, requesting ICES to extend its coverage of species as data become available to do so.

Ms Anne-Marie Meldgaard
Chairperson of the European
Affairs Committee
Folketinget

Your opinion mentions the need for a distinction between coastal fisheries and ocean fisheries. This is actually the underlying thought behind the section on small scale fisheries in the Green Paper where we asked whether the future CFP should include a specific regime to protect coastal fisheries which are important to coastal communities. While the principle that the management of marine living resources remains a Community competence according to the Treaty must be respected, it might be possible to develop options for more local implementation under an umbrella of Community principles, as also mentioned in the Green Paper.

The Commission acknowledges the support to the reform from the Committees and looks forward to further cooperation with the Danish Parliament in the reform process.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Maroš Šefčovič

Vice-President of the European Commission



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 15 MARS 2010
C(2010)1303

Dear Ms Kristensen,

The Commission thanks the Committees for their contribution to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) {COM(2009)163} by submission of a joint opinion.

The Commission notes that the Committees share the analysis of the situation as presented in the Green Paper, of the ensuing need for a comprehensive reform and of some of the key elements to be considered in a reform. The opinion includes valuable contributions to further develop the options for a future CFP which will help European fisheries to become sustainable and viable.

The Commission does see a need to establish a link between the various policy areas concerned which is why the CFP reform must be viewed as the framework of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Attacking overfishing and ensuring that fishery does not undermine the resilience of the marine ecosystems will be core aims of a reform.

The Commission appreciates that the Committees explain in some detail how the sector itself can be encouraged to take more responsibility for better selectivity and elimination of discards by establishing proper incentives, specifically through an optional system based on total catch quotas with a requirement for the industry to provide documentation. This is a constructive example of how our ideas about industry responsabilisation and reversing the burden of proof, which we raised in the Green Paper, could be implemented in practice.

The Commission agrees entirely on the need to ensure that good data are available for stock assessments and that ICES should be giving advice for all stocks and not just for certain stocks, as is presently the case. We believe that this is not something we need to wait for the reform to implement and that the combination of the new Data Collection Framework (in force from 1 January 2009) and the control regulation will help us a long way in getting reliable data on catches and landings. We are also, in our agreement with ICES, requesting ICES to extend its coverage of species as data become available to do so.

Mr René Kristensen
Chairperson of the Food, Agriculture
and Fisheries Committee
Folketinget

Your opinion mentions the need for a distinction between coastal fisheries and ocean fisheries. This is actually the underlying thought behind the section on small scale fisheries in the Green Paper where we asked whether the future CFP should include a specific regime to protect coastal fisheries which are important to coastal communities. While the principle that the management of marine living resources remains a Community competence according to the Treaty must be respected, it might be possible to develop options for more local implementation under an umbrella of Community principles, as also mentioned in the Green Paper.

The Commission acknowledges the support to the reform from the Committees and looks forward to further cooperation with the Danish Parliament in the reform process.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Maroš Šefčovič

Vice-President of the European Commission