



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.7.2012
C(2012) 4801 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Chamber of Deputies for its Opinion on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy {COM(2011) 416_417_418_424_425 final} and apologizes for the long delay in replying.

The Chamber's Opinion calls for an ambitious reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and advocates measures that effectively contribute to the objectives of the policy and to putting an end to overfishing. The Commission welcomes this Opinion and the views expressed therein.

The Chamber underlines the need for the reform package to build on an eco-system based approach to fisheries, with multi-annual management plans and improved conservation of the marine biological resources at the heart of the legislative proposals. Equally the Chamber supports the Commission's approach to solve the problem of discarding in European fisheries. The Commission is grateful for the support of the Chamber for its approach, and would like to underline that both the discards approach and the move towards multi-annual eco-system based management are at the heart of the reform package.

The Chamber makes reference to the importance of small-scale coastal fisheries for many regions in Europe. As regards the small-scale coastal fisheries, the Commission's proposals recognize this importance as well as the potential vulnerability of this segment of the European fleet. The small-scale fleets will not be subject to the system of transferable fishing concessions, the choice will be left completely to Member States. The proposal for a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund {COM(2011) 804 final of 2 December 2011} also emphasizes the importance of small-scale coastal fleets for coastal communities: the share of small-scale fisheries in the whole fleet will be used as a parameter for the allocation of resources to Member States. In the substantive part of the proposed Fund, the small-scale fleet can count with higher aid intensity (75 % of costs can be covered by public funding whereas non-small scale fleets can only receive up to 50 % of costs). Tailor-made measures include for instance support to business-development related advisory services, support to business start-ups and retrofitting of vessels. But also training and networking activities of fishermen and their spouses can be supported. The Commission also proposes support for local development of fisheries areas, which will benefit local actors, in particular in relation to small-scale fishing. The proposal for this Fund also foresees funding of actions that contribute to economically viable, competitive and green aquaculture, capable of facing global competition and providing our consumers with healthy and high nutrition value products.

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The Commission would like to reiterate its gratitude for the Chamber's Opinion and acknowledge the support for the reform and looks forward to further cooperation with the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg in the reform process.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*