



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 30/04/2010
C/2010/ 2811

Mr. Jaime José MATOS DA GAMA
President of the Assembly of the
Republic
Lisboa

Dear President,

The Commission thanks the Portuguese Parliament for its contribution to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy {COM(2009)163} by submission of an opinion.

The Commission notes that the Parliament shares the analysis of the situation as presented in the Green Paper and that there is also extensive agreement on the need for a comprehensive reform and on the key elements to be considered in a reform. The opinion includes valuable contributions to further develop these options for a future Common Fisheries Policy which will help European fisheries to become sustainable and viable.

The Commission finds it noteworthy that the Committee identifies the knowledge about the ecosystems as a key element which fisheries depend on and that we must act in accordance with this knowledge. The Commission agrees to these needs.

In the context of the Framework Program an initiative was already taken to strengthen research on marine matters by developing a strategy for marine and maritime research as one of the initiatives within the Integrated Maritime Policy. This strategy emphasizes the need to develop our understanding of inter alia human impacts on marine ecosystems, an ecosystem to resource management and how climate change impacts oceans. These are all issues which should be at the basis of a future Common Fisheries Policy.

The Committee mentions regionalization of decision making as a means to support decision making with a long term sustainability perspective. The Commission has put forward similar ideas as possible solutions in its Green Paper. The proposal from the Committee to base the future Common Fisheries Policy on an objective to have fisheries which are sustainable in the long term and which ensures consumers healthy food by optimal utilization of the aquatic ecosystem and without risks to biodiversity or ecosystem resilience points in that direction.

The Commission acknowledges the Committee's support for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and looks forward to further cooperation with the Portuguese Parliament in the reform process.

Yours sincerely,

/-/ Maroš Šefčovič

Vice-President of the European Commission