



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 3.6.2019
C(2019)4128 final*

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the Comissão de Assuntos Europeus
Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

*cc. Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the
Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards certain rules for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund by reason of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union {COM (2019)48}.

The Commission welcomes the general support of the Assembleia da República for the proposal. It has now been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal on 27 March 2019¹.

In its Opinion, the Assembleia da República considers that Portugal should be included into the group of Member States with significant dependence on access to United Kingdom waters for its fishing activities. The reason indicated is that Norway has fishing opportunities in the United Kingdom waters and in exchange, EU Member States, including Portugal, have fishing opportunities for cod in the Norwegian waters.

Regulation (EU) 2019/497 addresses the consequences of a situation in which the United Kingdom does not grant access rights to United Kingdom waters for Union fishing vessels that have significant dependence on access to the United Kingdom waters. Public support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities is therefore available for fishermen and operators that have a direct (and significant) dependence on access to United Kingdom waters.²

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/497 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards certain rules relating to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, OJ L 85 I, 27.03/2019, p.22.

² Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 of 30 January 2019 fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, OJ L 29, 31.1.2019, p. 1.

Fishing opportunities within Norwegian waters as set out in Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 should remain available throughout the year 2019. The European Union and Norway are currently consulting with the aim of maintaining the arrangements already in operation between Norway and the European Union for the remainder of 2019.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Assembleia da República and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*