



COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES

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AVIS DU COMITÉ DES ANALYSES D'IMPACT

COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION AU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN ET AU
CONSEIL

CONSTRUIRE UN AVENIR DURABLE POUR L'AQUACULTURE - DONNER UN
NOUVEL ELAN A LA STRATEGIE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DE
L'AQUACULTURE EUROPEENNE

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Opinion

Title **Impact Assessment on: A strategy for the sustainable development of European aquaculture**

Resubmission (draft version of 13/01/2009)

Lead DG **DG MARE**

1) Impact Assessment Board Opinion

(A) Context

The initiative intends to renew the strategy for the sustainable development of European aquaculture of 2002 that provided a ten-year vision. The first strategy was part of a series of proposals issued by the Commission to reform the Common Fisheries Policy.

(B) Positive aspects

The problem section of the resubmitted IA report has been improved by including an analysis of the outcome of the 2002 strategy and a description of lessons learnt. The political context and the approach of this new initiative are now clearer. Option 2 has been revised to include 3 sub-options and the main text of the report now contains a presentation of the actions under the preferred sub-option. The general presentation has been improved through better structuring, the problems and objectives are more clearly linked and the report provides better explanations of the level of ambition and responsible actors. It also quantifies impacts and explains the limits of this exercise.

(C) Main recommendations for improvements

The recommendations below are listed in order of descending importance. Some more technical comments have been transmitted directly to the author DG and are expected to be incorporated in the final version of the impact assessment report.

The criteria defining the sustainability of aquaculture development should be made more explicit and in section 5.2 the table of possible actions should be reworked and better integrated in the text.

(1) As highlighted in the first Board opinion, the report needs to be more explicit on the criteria (economic, social and environmental) for defining the sustainability of aquaculture development. On this basis the report should identify indicators to monitor the sustainable

development of the sector. As an example, the statement on page 57 that '*the more extensive use of natural resources and the increase in pollutant output*' (caused by an increased aquaculture production) '*should be weighed out compared to the social and economic consequences*' should be clarified and substantiated. The report should in particular assess in more detail the synergies between environmental priorities and aquaculture development, and provide a more balanced view of the groups which will be affected.

(2) The table describing the proposed actions of the retained option 2.2 should be streamlined and better integrated. While the report has broken down option 2 into sub-options which is welcome, it needs to present the table on possible actions in section 5.2 in a more streamlined and more readable form and should try to better integrate it with the text in that section.

(D) Procedure and presentation

The IA report would gain clarity on the EU dimension of the strategy if information explaining the need for support of this specific sector through EU action – currently spread throughout the report - were summarised and made more explicit under section 2.7 on subsidiarity. The report needs a thorough editorial and linguistic check and should be brought closer to the 30 pages limit.

2) IAB scrutiny process

Reference number	2008/MARE/012
Author DG	DG MARE
External expertise used	No
Date of Board Meeting	Written Procedure
Date of adoption of Opinion	04-02-2009 The present version concerns a resubmitted draft IA report. The previous opinion was issued on 24/11/2008.