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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Mr António Schiappa Cabral
Chairman of LDRAC
C/Velázquez 41, 4^oC
28001 Madrid
SPAIN

Subject: LDRAC recommendations on trade issues.

Dear Mr. Cabral,

Thank you for your reply in answer to the questions raised by the Commission during the last Working Group 3 of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA) on 12 June 2008 as well as in answer to the specific consultation on South Korea of 2 July 2008.

Your position regarding the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with Central America, the Andean Community, India and Tunisia has been noted. I have taken the liberty to send the relevant information to the appropriate Commission services most notably, DG TRADE, DG SANCO and DG TAXUD, for matters under their responsibility.

Regarding South Korea, the FTA negotiations are at an advanced stage, although conclusion is not yet imminent. I will make sure that your report regarding the closing of the South Korean market to EU fishery products is addressed in the proper manner with our South Korean partners, and looked into further. Any further information which you may have on this issue would help us in this task. I have also sent your concerns to DG TRADE for their follow-up. Concerning tuna products, the Commission is aware of the special sensitive nature involved and will treat it as such.

I thank you as well for your useful input concerning other key matters, particularly on custom valuation, investment, sanitary and phytosanitary matters, IUU, non-discrimination and labour standards.


Taking into account the diverse nature and complexity of the issues addressed, the Commission services participating in the upcoming meeting of the LDRAC in Madrid on 17 September 2008, will provide you with their comments at that meeting in order to allow a more fruitful and interactive discussion.

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I appreciate LDRAC member's readiness to put forward any additional advice should it be needed by the Commission. I support timely and thorough exchanges between the Commission and the LDRAC members to further develop and improve dialogue with stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,



Fokion Fotiadis