



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS

THE DIRECTOR

05.09.2008 D 09982

Brussels,
MARE/B/3/VR/mh D (2008)

Subject: European Commission Decision concerning the payment of the financial contribution for the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Mauritania

Dear Mr. Cabral,

Following the coup d'état in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (IRM) on 6 August 2008 and the subsequent replacement of the authorities democratically elected in 2007 with a military junta, the European Commission has adopted a decision instructing the Commission services to check that the conditions are *in place* for the implementation of the fisheries partnership agreement (FPA) concluded with Mauritania and, in particular, that the payment of the annual financial contribution, originally due on 31 August 2008 at the latest, can be carried out while respecting the principle of sound financial management.

Therefore, the European Commission is currently verifying if the new political situation in Mauritania does not affect the capacity of the Ministry for Fisheries to implement the new strategy of the sector adopted by the previous government. This new strategy includes a number of objectives to develop the fisheries sector and the investment, discussed in the context of the adoption of the matrix 2008. It must be ensured by the Commission that these objectives can be respected within the agreed timeframe. It is also important for the Commission to verify that the principle of additionality from the Mauritanian partner, within the budget, can be upheld, bearing in mind the budgetary constraint that the new government may face

The Commission wants to ensure that the current implementation of the agreement proceeds as planned within the Protocol. That is the reason why the meetings of the Infringement group or of the Scientific Committee, should be organised by the new government according to the commitments. It is essential for the Commission to receive

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the insurance that these commitments taken before the coup d'état, be respected in order to maintain the proper implementation of the agreement.

While the verifications are taking place, the protocol remains in force and fishing activities by EU fleets do not need to be interrupted.

Interested economic operators are being kept informed by their relevant Member State.

We remain at your disposal to inform you of developments with regard to the evolution of the situation during your next meeting on 18th September 2008.



Pierre AMILHAT