

Rede

Anlass: Sitzung des Executive Committees des Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council am 22.05.2024

Thema: Grußworte des Bundesministeriums

Dear Ivan (Vorsitzender des LDAC),

dear Mr Mari (Gastgeber von Brot für die Welt),

(ggf. KOM-Vertreter)

dear members of the LDAC,

dear colleagues from the LDAC secretariat,

- On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, I welcome you to Berlin for today's and tomorrow's meetings of the Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council.
- I am delighted that the meeting takes place in the German capital, and I thank the colleagues from „Brot für die Welt“ for hosting this meeting.
- The work of the Advisory Councils is very valuable for us, administrators and managers in the national ministries. And I'm sure the colleagues from the Commission will also agree with me.
- The AC's play an important role within the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy.

- They bring both industry representatives as well as NGOs together to find common ground on oftentimes difficult issues and present us with an opinion that is, in the best case, accepted by all parts of society.
- Sometimes it's difficult or even impossible to find common ground I'm convinced that the role of the AC's as common fora is highly important and appreciated. It's always better talking together than talking about someone.
- While the long distance fleet is often the most profitable segment of our fisheries fleets, it is facing its own challenges.
- Especially Norway has been and still is an extremely difficult partner when it comes to fisheries policy, which affects a large number of Member States in one or the other way.
- For the German government, it is paramount to defend the EU's historic fishing rights in the waters around Svalbard. While we see room for compromises on certain issues with Norway, we also see the necessity to stand together and not sacrifice interests of certain Member States.
- Unfortunately, we have lost the trade aspect as a negotiation leverage due to the agreement on market access for Norwegian products as part of the package of the EEA financial mechanism.

- However, we will keep fisheries relations between the EU and Norway on the political agenda and work towards a solution.
- We are well aware that the upcoming negotiations in the fall will be very challenging again.
- In parallel, the EU will negotiate with Greenland on a new protocol. This is another add-on to the complex situation in the North-East Atlantic.
- On the other hand, I very much appreciate the optimism of our two German long-distance companies. Both have put a brand-new vessel into operation for the North-East Atlantic this spring. The first one was christened early April in Bremerhaven, the second one will be christened on Friday in Cuxhaven and will bear the name “Berlin”.
- Regarding Africa, I very much appreciate the LDAC’s activities in relation to the EU’s sustainable fisheries partnership agreements – SFPA’s.
- In order to sustain the EU’s credibility in international fora, it is our duty to ensure sustainable catch limits and fishing practices wherever the EU fleet is active.
- A very important principle in this regard is the principle of “surplus” making sure, that only fisheries resources which are not fished by the respective national fleets are and should be available for the EU-fleet.

- The EU must ensure that the SFPAs are also in the interest of the coastal states and their own fishing sectors.
- Regarding RFMOs, the EU with its Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is not only engaged in the Atlantic but is acting and responsible as a worldwide player.
- For example, the EU was quite successful in the Pacific this year. In the South Pacific – SPRFMO - , the allocation key for jack mackerel had to be renegotiated – with a positive outcome, including a slight increase of the EU's share of that stock. In the North Pacific - NPFC, the EU is still a newcomer, but from this year on a full and active member – this is very good news as well.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is of utmost importance that we fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing which affects the local food security, the sustainable management of fishing resources and often goes in line with inhuman working conditions on board. We are aware that many of these cases have been reported from the Chinese distance fleet.
- From my point of view it's very important to address this issue bilaterally with the flag state and of course multilaterally, for example in the context of G 7 / G 20.

- The EU is also affected by imports of fisheries products by IUU-fisheries. Supporting coastal states concerned is crucial but in addition, we have to ensure that fisheries products from IUU-fisheries do not enter the Union market.
- In this regard the new revision of the EU-control regulation – including a revision of the EU-IUU-regulation is an important step to strengthen the fight against IUU-fisheries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking into the Agenda for today and tomorrow, there are a lot of interesting items and discussions ahead of us. Therefore I wish us all together good meetings here in Berlin with fruitful discussions during the meeting(s) and of course in the margins.

Thank you very much!