



Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union
Directorate for Structural and Cohesion Policies
Secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries
The Head of Unit

Mr. Antonio CABRAL
President of Long Distance Fleet
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309167 10.06.2009

Subject: Your letter dated 27 May 2009

Dear Mr. Cabral,

While waiting for the newly elected European Parliament to officially constitute, please allow me to reply, on behalf of the secretariat of the Committee on Fisheries, to the letter addressed to our outgoing Chairman Mr. Morillon.

The problem of piracy in the western Indian Ocean and its immediate fallout on EU fishing operations in that region is well known to the European Parliament. A number of debates, both at committee and plenary level, have led to the adoption of a resolution of 23 October 2008 on piracy at sea (P6_TA(2008)0519). Since then, this important issue has remained on the radar screen of all EP committees concerned, notably the Committee on Transport and Tourism, the Subcommittee on Security and Defence and the Committee on Fisheries.

As far as our committee is concerned, the political groups had asked for a specific "mini-hearing" to be held during the meeting of 31 March 2009. On that occasion, Mr. José Angel Angulo (Anabac) and Mr. Pierre Alain Carré (Orthongel) were given the opportunity to present and discuss key issues related to piracy - and EU efforts aimed at preventing it - with members of the Committee on Fisheries, as well as with Commander Snowy Lintern, the Eunavfor-Atalanta operation liaison officer to the EU, who had also been invited to attend.

In their interventions our members appeared unanimous in strongly supporting requests for higher security levels for EU fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean. Clear calls were also made for a better coordination and more effective deployment of Eunavfor-Atalanta resources, to be possibly supplemented by a more specific naval operation targeted at the protection of the EU fishing fleet operating in the Indian Ocean.

Please rest assured that we will bring this problem and your letter to the attention of the new Chairperson and members of the Committee on Fisheries as soon as it reconvenes.

Yours sincerely,



Philippe Musquar

cc: European Commission, DG MARE
EU Council Secretariat, Security and Defence Policy, Eunavfor-Atalanta liaison
office