



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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Mr Antonio Cabral
President
Long Distance Fleet RAC
C/Velázquez 41, 4°C
28001 Madrid
SPAIN

Subject: Advice of the LDRAC on a strategy to insure transparency and compliance of the European tuna purse-seine fisheries

Yr reference: R-01-13/WG1

Dear Mr Cabral,

Thank you for the LDRAC advice on a strategy to ensure transparency and compliance of the European tuna purse-seine fisheries.

The Commission Communication on the External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, as endorsed by the Council Conclusions of March 2012 and the European Parliament Report of November 2012, highlights the importance of promoting externally the fundamental principles of the EU fisheries policy, notably sustainable exploitation of stocks outside EU waters. With regard to the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of third countries, Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs) are indeed the most appropriate frame to pursue that objective as they also provide, through the sectoral policy support component, financing for capacity building including for monitoring, control and surveillance of the EEZs.


For these efforts to bear fruits, information sharing mechanisms both on a regional and country level basis would need to be developed by DG MARE with other services such as DG DEVCO, DG TRADE and EEAS to ensure that a coherent policy is promoted towards third countries, including complementarity of funding. Substantial progress in this collaboration has been achieved with regard to the Pacific Ocean region and joint work is now underway to develop similar approaches for other oceans with large networks of EU fisheries agreements.

Furthermore, the Commission is highly favorable for increased transparency in the framework under which the EU fishing vessels operate in the EEZs of third countries, including the situation where there is no current FPA between the EU and such countries. This transparency should enable better control and better monitoring of the pressure exerted by the EU fleets on stocks and ecosystems, and thus fights against situations leading to increased risk of the IUU fishing.

To do this, the Commission plans to propose a revision to the current legislative framework for the issuance and obligations attached to the fishing authorisations for EU fishing vessels operating in the waters of third countries and in international waters as well as for the access of third country vessels to EU waters (Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008). The main objective of this revision is to strengthen and simplify the existing legal framework, in consistency with control and IUU policies, and address key issues such as repetitive reflagging and regulating private fishing arrangements of the EU fleet outside EU waters. By doing so, it should bring more transparency and clearer rules for the use of so-called "private licences".

I thank you for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any question on this reply, you can contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Regional Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans

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