

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Sea Fisheries¹

Ms Maria DAMANAKI

European Commission
B – 1049 Brussels

Commissioner for
Maritime Affairs and
Fisheries

Brussels, 2nd May 2011

EP(11)67/FISH(11)3635

Re: ex ante consultation of social partners from the fisheries sector on the socio-economic consequences of the reform of the CFP

Dear Commissioner,

Despite our numerous requests for information at the latest meetings of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Sea Fisheries, the social partners from the fisheries sector, represented by Europêche, Cogeca and the ETF, have still not received any information on the assessment of the socio-economic impact of the future CFP despite the fact that the official publication of the texts from the first package of the reform is due on 13th July 2011. Moreover, as there are rules and criteria for such studies, which apply to all DGs within the Commission, the social partners have on many occasions stated that they should be consulted during the preparatory stages. This has not been the case thus far.

In their respective positions on the Commission's Green Paper on the reform of the CFP dated 14th October 2009, Europêche and Cogeca, stated that **"the Green Paper makes no explicit reference to the role of social partners in Community decision-making. They call for the social dialogue committee for the sea fishing industry to be systematically consulted on the socio-economic consequences of the Commission's legislative proposals and for its opinions be taken into due account"** (EP(09)89final/SP(09)3074:5).

In December 2009, the ETF highlighted the **" need to actively involve social partners in the creation of assessments of socio-economic impact, particularly their specifications, the consultation of stakeholders and the formalisation of conclusions"**.

In addition to this, at the workshop on the social side of the CFP, which was organised by your services in A Coruña in May 2010, the conclusions drawn by the European Commission clearly stipulated that **"the importance of the Committee on social dialogue in fisheries needs to be recognised throughout the reform process"** and that **"social aspects should receive due attention in the impact assessments for new policy and legislative proposals"**.

The Commission is obviously not taking into account the legitimate demands of sectoral social partners, nor is it taking its own principles and statements into consideration.

¹ This Committee is made up of the following three European organisations: Europêche, Cogeca (Employers' Group) and ETF (Employees' Group).

Bearing this in mind, we would be very grateful if you could send us all the completed impact assessments for the reform of the CFP so that we can formulate an opinion on the socio-economic effects of this reform on behalf of the social partners within a reasonable timeframe.

Moreover, one of the tasks undertaken by the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Sea Fisheries is providing the Commission with opinions on socio-economic measures and changes to European policy, which would have a social effect on the fisheries sector. Therefore, it would be entirely appropriate for there to be a meeting of the representatives organised as soon as possible so that they can be consulted on the aforementioned issues.

We hope that this issue will be granted your full attention.

Yours faithfully,



Flemming SMIDT

Maria José GONZALEZ

Vice-Chair

Chair

Copy to: Ms Evans, Mr Penas, Mr Bianchi, Mr Tokarski, Mr Papaioannou, Mr Gallizioli (DG MARE), Mr Richelle, Mr Silva, Mr Tricart, Mr Hadrich (DG EMPL) and Ms Fraga (European Parliament).