

CFFA

Coalition for
Fair Fisheries Arrangements

CAPE

Coalition pour des
Accords de Pêche Équitables

October 21st 2005

Consultation on the EU Commission communication ‘*Perspectives for simplifying and improving the regulatory environment of the Common Fisheries Policy*’ – CFFA Comments

CFFA generally welcomes the Commission communication ‘*Perspectives for simplifying and improving the regulatory environment of the Common Fisheries Policy*’.

CFFA would like to make the following comments:

1. *The communication highlights the fact that EU member state administrations have voiced concern over the reporting requirements to be submitted to DG Fish and the practical use of such data. The concrete proposals for simplification include the adaptation of the logbooks and other documents to address only the specific needs of fishery management, including enforcement.*

Comment

It is important that, in the current consultation procedure, developing countries where EU fleets are active are consulted on ‘*specific information needs for fisheries management, including enforcement*’.

In particular, developing countries informational needs should be taken into account for the building up of standard frameworks/model agreements that will specify reporting requirements for EU fleets active in distant waters.

This consultation with developing countries partners could be done on a regional basis. In our view, such consultation with ACP stakeholders on a regional basis, would also support the objective, highlighted in the communication, of “*definition of a medium-term strategy according to the type of agreement, region or type of fishery to ensure consistency in Community action aimed at achieving a sustainable fisheries policy while at the same time protecting Community interests*’.

2. *The communication emphasises that ‘regarding bilateral relations (partnership agreements), action by the European Community, fishermen and member states (including action under other EU policies) could be improved by gradually building up standard legislative frameworks, whilst remaining open to the specific*

features and issues faced by the fisheries concerned, as well as by improving negotiation and follow-up procedures’.

Comment

CFFA feels that the building up of standard legislative framework for establishing fisheries partnership agreements with developing countries is of paramount importance and fully supports the Commission’s proposals.

On that aspect, we feel there should be more coherence between this proposal on simplification and other proposals currently discussed. In particular, the current Commission’s proposal for a *Council Regulation establishing Community financial measures for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and in the area of the Law of the Sea* should reflect that need to build up standard legislative framework for establishing fisheries (partnership) agreements with developing countries¹.

Such single regulatory framework should include

- harmonised minimum terms and conditions for EU access to third country EEZ (base for access, joint initiatives for fisheries management, research, monitoring and control, etc)
- a common set of standards and criteria to guide the setting up of joint ventures and investments in the ACP fisheries sector. These should be based on OECD guidelines on foreign investments by multinational companies, and relevant international environmental and labour agreements to which the parties are signatories.
- detailed procedures to ensure accountability of the monies spent through fisheries partnership agreements.

¹ As we understand the Commission’s proposal a *Council Regulation establishing Community financial measures for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and in the area of the Law of the Sea*, no change is foreseen: the conclusion for the first time or the renewal of an existing fisheries protocol with a third country will still take place on the basis of ad hoc Council Decisions.