



Commissioner Joe Borg -
Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
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Date: 09 November 2009
Subject: RACs' consultation on Technical Conservation Measures under the
Common Fisheries Policy
CC: Swedish Presidency
General Director of DG Mare - Mr Fokion Fotiadis

Dear Commissioner,

We, the chairmen of the North Western Waters, South Western Waters, North Sea, Baltic Sea and Pelagic Regional Advisory Councils, would like to express our discomfort with the way that the new regulation on Technical Measures is being prepared for decision at the next Council of Ministers. To our regret, we feel that this is an illustration of poor governance.

Although the consultation period ended last year, some RACs have asked for further consultation to improve this proposal, because we felt that our detailed advice, based on extensive expertise of the fishermen concerned, has not been taken on board sufficiently.

The European Commission and Council have continuously highlighted the value of the RACs for dealing with issues at a regional level by enabling a dialogue with direct stakeholders. In particular the Technical Measures regulation should optimally reflect a fishery by fishery approach, which would be realised by including stakeholder participation throughout the process.



We genuinely regret this sudden rush to force a decision by the Council and recognize it as an attempt to avoid a co-decision procedure with the European Parliament under the Lisbon Treaty. This decision-making process jeopardizes the credibility of the commitment of the Commission and Council of good governance.

As a matter of principle, be it this proposal or any other, we consider it essential to have sufficient time to be consulted and to be enabled to produce a response. We, on behalf of the four RACs affected by the regulation, urge you to postpone the adoption of this Proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Reine Johansson
Chair BS RAC

Hugo Andersen
Chair NS RAC

Sam Lambourn
Chair NWW RAC

Ian MacSween
Chair P RAC

Victor Badiola
Chair SWWRAC