

To MEP Jarosław Walesa
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
Rapporteur for the dossier on the multi annual management plan for the Baltic

By e mail: jaroslaw.walesa@europarl.europa.eu

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BSAC/2015/3

Copenhagen Thursday 25th June 2015

Subject: No progress on the Baltic Plan: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007

Dear Jaroslaw Walesa,

We are writing to express our serious concern at the news from yesterday's press release and press conference that following the negotiations between the Parliament, Council and the Commission, no agreement has been reached on the draft multiannual plan for fisheries in the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) has been looking forward very much to seeing the adoption of a multi-annual plan for the Baltic. Well in advance of the proposal being put forward by the Commission in October 2014, the BSAC has been working seriously on formulating input to the plan and has been arguing consistently for a long-term, adaptive management of fish stocks in the Baltic. Another argument for seeing the adoption of this plan is the extremely important issue of technical measures: it is most urgent that we can make changes to the technical measures in order to fulfill our obligations with respect to the Landing Obligation.

We are extremely worried that this multi-annual plan will have a similar fate to that of the multi-annual management plan for salmon: launched in 2011 and still not adopted. Again, the BSAC put in a great deal of effort to providing advice and to facilitating the development of a long-term management plan in the Baltic.

The current state of deadlock is of major concern to all of us in the BSAC. We are holding an Executive Committee meeting on Thursday 2nd July 2015 in Copenhagen. At this meeting we will be dealing with the ICES advice for TACs and quotas for 2016. In that connection, we have had discussions about multi-species management in the Baltic. We would like to invite you to the meeting and give you the opportunity to explain the different positions that have developed during the Trilogue negotiations and to present your views on how the deadlock can be overcome. We recognize the short notice of such an invitation.

We are also planning to hold a Working Group meeting on Monday 31st August 2015 in Warsaw - immediately before the next planned BALTFISH meeting. Again, we extend an invitation to you to come to our Working Group so you can explain to us the state of play, the rationale behind the situation and the prospects for progress.

Should neither of these options be possible, we are also prepared to come immediately as a small delegation to you to discuss this matter further.

To conclude, there is consensus amongst the BSAC membership of the importance and urgency behind having in operation a multi-annual plan for the Baltic. We understand that the negotiations have been difficult, but we ask both sides to do everything they can to continue the work to bring about an agreement within the Trilogue. It is going to be impossible to explain to public opinion why and how such a situation has come about. Such a climate of apportioning blame and postponing agreement risks jeopardizing the continued healthy development of the Baltic stocks and even the good cooperation that we have built up in the Baltic.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,



Reine J. Johansson
Chairman BSAC



Piotr Prędko
Vice-chair BSAC



Michael Andersen
Chair BSAC Demersal Working Group



Mart Undrest
Chair BSAC Pelagic Working Group

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