



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
D(2011)

Dear Ms Milewska and Mr Johansson,

Thank you for your letter of 27 September relating to the effort regime applied in the Baltic Sea cod plan. Please accept my apologies for this late reply. I am aware this is an important issue, and can assure you that your contribution was welcome and taken into consideration.

The Commission made a comprehensive assessment of the effort regime in 2011. The analysis of the total number of days used by vessels revealed that the effort used was lower than the effort available to Member States. Therefore, we considered that there is no need for an increase of the number of fishing days at Member State level, but for a flexibility mechanism. Furthermore, the cod plan does not foresee the possibility to increase fishing effort if fishing mortality (F) is below target.

As you know, a roll-over of the number of days at sea in the Western and Eastern Baltic was agreed at the October Council. Additionally, within the legal framework of the cod plan and without jeopardising its objectives, a flexibility mechanism was introduced in the management of the fishing effort for 2012. We also introduced a flexibility mechanism with retroactive effect for 2011. It should therefore be possible for Member States to allocate additional days to vessels in need where an equal amount of days is withdrawn from other vessels.

I would like to thank you for your involvement in the evaluation of the fishing effort regime under the Baltic Sea cod plan, and look forward to your continued contribution in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans