



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Brussels,

Mr Guus Pastoor
(interim chairman of ACFA),

RACS secretariats

Dear Mr Pastoor, dear RACs,

Within the framework of the CFP Reform dialogue with stakeholders, the Commission is organising a seminar on the **Reform of the Market Policy on Fishery and Aquaculture Products** on 7 July 2010 in Brussels. The agenda of the meeting is attached (Annex I).

The seminar will gather operators from the fishing and aquaculture industry (from first sale to retail, including wholesalers, processors and distributors), society as a whole, Member States and European Institutions in order to exchange views about possible options for a reform of the Market Policy within the framework of the overall reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. The European Commission will introduce the main topics for discussion with a view to initiating a debate among participants.

I am pleased to invite the European organisations members of the ACFA and the RACs Secretariats to propose the experts from ACFA and RACS (as per Annex II) that will attend this seminar:

Wednesday, 7 July 2010

from 10h00 to 18h00

in the **CCAB Building** (room 1C)
rue Froissart 36 - Brussels

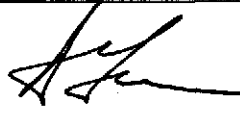
(the meeting room will be confirmed at the entrance to the building).

"Please inform us of any particular need resulting from a disability, so that we may take it into account when organising this meeting"

The travel costs and subsistence allowances of the participants will **not** be reimbursed by the Commission.

SPECIFIC PRIVACY STATEMENT (See Annex III)

Yours sincerely,


D. GHEORGHE
Director

ANNEX I

Draft agenda **Seminar on the Reform of the Market Policy on** **Fishery and Aquaculture Products** **Practical details**

Date: 7 July 2010, 10.00-13.00 and 14.30-18.00

Venue: Centre des Conférences Albert Borschette (CCAB), Room 1C, Brussels

Interpretation: From FR-DE-EN-IT-ES to FR-DE-EN-IT-ES

Security rules for the access to the CCAB building:

- Participants should present themselves, with proof of identity and this letter of invitation, at the security control situated at the entrance of the building.

- You are kindly requested to provide Ms. Reeves (sarah.reeves@ec.europa.eu), tel. +32-2-2950323) (with copy to Ms Ruiz (maria-jesus.ruiz-monroy@ec.europa.eu - for ACFA) and to Ms Viallon (isabelle.viallon@ec.europa.eu - for RACs)) by WEDNESDAY 30 June 2010 at 16.00 at the latest the name and job title of the participants in the meeting.

- Only delegates who announced their participation in advance will be granted access to the meeting room.

- Please note that the said Security Rules are being applied in a very strict fashion.

Issues for discussion

The seminar is intended to reflect upon possible options for reform of the Market Policy on Fishery and Aquaculture Products within the framework of the overall reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. Discussion will be structured around the following main market issues, which will be introduced by a short presentation from the European Commission:

1. ORGANISATION OF THE SECTOR

- How could the Market Policy foster stronger and more representative fishery and aquaculture Producer Organisations (POs)?

Possible options: PO merges or associations of POs at national and transnational levels.

- Should POs responsibilities be strengthened in the management of fishery and aquaculture resources as well as in marketing activities? If so, which responsibilities?

Possible options: Co-management of fishing rights and quotas, planning of aquaculture production, placing on the market and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

- What measures to improve POs' knowledge of the market in order to better match their supplies to market demand and thus to improve their returns?

Possible options: What role for an EU Market Observatory? Which contributions from stakeholders to the Observatory? What would be the best way for the Observatory to disseminate its information to stakeholders?

- How to reinforce Inter-branch Organisations (IBOs) in order to better co-ordinate the different operators in the marketing chain?

Possible options: Incentives to inter-branch projects, introduction of start-up aids, and recognition of trans-national IBOs.

2. PRICE AND INTERVENTION MECHANISMS

- How to simplify the current mechanisms and to better adapt them to the specific situation of regional or local markets?

Possible options:

– The fixing of the relevant intervention prices and the operation of intervention could be shifted to POs at a regional or local level;

– The intervention instruments could be simplified to a single storage mechanism with a view to reintroduce stored and/or processed products onto the market at a later stage. The objective is to match landings to market demand.

- How to improve the efficiency of the financial means allocated to the Market Policy?

Possible options: Establishment of a single financial instrument, grant of aids conditioned to the achievement of clear objectives. Who, what, how?

3. MARKETING STANDARDS AND CONSUMER INFORMATION

- How could the *common marketing standards* further facilitate the functioning of the internal market and support product quality and conservation of fishing activities?

Possible options:

– Should the current regulatory system continue or rather move to self-regulation by industry?

– Revision of product quality grading;

– Adaptation to the requirements of new marketing such as e-commerce;

– Harmonisation of minimum biological/marketing sizes to prevent the marketing of juveniles in the EU;

– Possible application and adaptation of the standards to aquaculture products.

- How could the *consumer information* provisions better inform consumers and promote sustainable production?

Possible options:

- Revision of current mandatory requirements to indicate more detailed information;
- Introduction of voluntary information, e.g. about aspects relating to responsible consumption.
- Which implications of the traceability provisions laid down in the Control Regulation?

4. MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNAL SUPPLY SOURCING

- How to strike a balance between producer, processor, trader and consumer interests?
- How to ensure a fair competition between the EU and third countries?
- How could the Market Policy contribute to the steady and competitive *supply of raw materials* for processing?
- Should the current system of tariff suspensions and autonomous tariff quotas be maintained?

ANNEX II

EXPERTS TO BE PROPOSED:

ACFA:

EUROPÊCHE, COGECA, ETF, AEOP, AEPM, FEAP, AIPCE and CEP = 3 experts per organisation

NGOS= 3 experts (Environmental and development)

CONSUMERS= 2 experts

EAFPA and EUROCOMMERCE= 2 experts per organisation

RACS:

1 expert per RAC

TOTAL: 40 experts

(Please note that the limitation of participants is due to the room capacity)

Copies: **Messrs VERNAEVE - BROUCKAERT - ALFONSO - HOUGH -
GUILLAUMIE - Mss SPERA - CONSTEN - VICENTE - NOSEWICZ**

ANNEX III - SPECIFIC PRIVACY STATEMENT

Description: Personal data related to this invitation will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) n° 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

Purpose: The purpose of the processing of personal data for the meeting is: Management of the meeting, including management of: lists for contacts, invitations, participants, reports, distribution of reports, feedback on reports, meeting follow-up, follow-up meetings, follow-up actions, information sharing.

Personal data collected and further processed are:

- data necessary for the organisation and management of the meeting, such as Gender (needed for the right title)/name/surname/profession/ postal & e-mail addresses/ phone number/fax number...
- identity/passport n°/date of birth (for access control purpose by security guards to the Commission's premises)
- information about the form of transport used & hotel, and banking information (for purpose of reimbursement of travel expenses/allowances)
- if you are invited as a member/observer of a Commission Experts Group, some of your *personal data will be made publicly available in the Commission's Register of Expert Groups* for as long as the membership upholds and/or until removal from the public site is requested, in view of the transparency policy of the European Institutions¹ and the need to inform the public of the identity and qualifications of the experts advising the Institution.

Controller: Head of Unit "Human resources, IT and document management", DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Recipients: The access to all personal data as well as all information collected in the context of this meeting, and the organisation thereof, is only granted through UserId/Password to a defined population of users, without prejudice to a possible transmission to the bodies in charge of a monitoring or inspection task in accordance with Community legislation. These users typically are: The chairman and the secretary of the meeting, both supported by a team in the operational services inside DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Data retention: Your personal data will be part of a list of contact details shared internally amongst the Commission services for the purpose of contacting data subjects in the future in the context of the Commission's activities. If you do not agree with this, please contact the Controller by using the Contact Information mentioned in the invitation letter and by explicitly specifying your request.

Contact: Please use the contact information mentioned in the invitation letter.

¹ See also 'COM(2007)127 final' and http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/eti/index_en.htm