

HELSINKI COMMISSION

Baltic Marine Environment
Protection Commission



18 December 2009

To: European Commission
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and
Fisheries
"CFP Reform"
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

via e-mail mare-cfp-consultation@ec.europa.eu

cc: Mr. Fokion Fotiadis
Director-general for DG Mare
Mr. Karl Falkenberg
Director-general for DG Environment

Please find attached a Joint Submission by the HELCOM Contracting States to the European Consultation for a review of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (2007) committed the HELCOM Contracting States that are also members of the EU to make a joint submission to the 2012 review of the CFP, in consultation with the Russian Federation.

As background for discussion the European Commission has prepared a Green Paper on the future of the CFP. The Commission has invited all interested parties to comment the Green Paper by 31 December 2009.

This submission has been discussed by the HELCOM Baltic Fisheries and Environmental Forum¹ and adopted by the 29th meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation held in St. Petersburg, on 2-3 December 2009.

I would like to highlight that this submission by HELCOM was prepared, discussed and adopted prior to the closure of the European Commission's consultation process on the Green Paper, in times when several HELCOM Contracting States, that are also member countries of the EU, were running their own national consultation process. Consequently, the submission has a regional perspective without prejudice to future positions or views on specific issues to be presented by an individual member country of the EU.

Looking forward to future cooperation.

Igor I. Maydanov
Chairman

¹ The Baltic Fisheries and Environmental Forum was established in 2008 to facilitate the successful implementation of the fisheries related actions in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (HELCOM BSAP) and to contribute to a management of the fisheries that is compatible with the environmental objectives of the HELCOM BSAP. The Forum is a regional platform for communication and collaborative action where the competent Fisheries and Environmental authorities of the Baltic Sea area, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and other invited scientists, the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council under the Common Fisheries Policy (BS RAC) and other non-governmental organizations in the fields of Fisheries and Environmental/ nature conservation are invited to exchange views and experiences in best practices for sustainable management fisheries, discuss and implement joint activities.