

The 18th December 2009

Secretariat for the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, Third Floor
1553 Copenhagen V

Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), the Fisheries Secretariat (FISH) and WWF cannot support the BS RAC recommendations on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), and would like to make the following Minority statement:

From the beginning of the debate, we have remarked on the narrow scope of the BS RAC handling of the reform issues and the Commission's Green Paper, which passes by many of the key issues for us as environmental NGOs.

Most of the comments made by environmental NGOs (both at the meeting of the CFP reform Focus Group, on the draft document circulated after the meeting and at the Executive Committee meeting dealing with the issue) were not supported and we foresee that the final version of the document will not reflect them either. This will result in BS RAC recommendations impossible for us to support.

In addition, the procedures for preparation and handling of the draft text have been unacceptable, and do not fulfil normal standards for international organisations, making a proper discussion on the final text impossible. Today, on 18 December we are yet to receive a new version to comment on despite the time table agreed at the Executive Committee meeting on 9 December, when it would be circulated on 14 December at the latest.

We can not see how the NGO group possibly can comment constructively and receive a final revised version to agree on before the deadline of 31 December.

Because of the above combination of issues, CCB, FISH and WWF will not support the BSRAC statement on the CFP reform.

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