



EAPO/AEOP
H. Baelskaai 25
8400 OOSTENDE
BELGIUM
☎ 32 59 32 18 76 Fax: - 32 28 40
e-mail: info@eapo.com

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THE EAPO's POSITION ON THE COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATION IN RELATION TO MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS BASED ON FISHING RIGHTS"¹

1. The EAPO shares with the Commission the need for beginning a debate on the methods of management based on the fishing rights. In the "Roadmap" on the reform of the common fisheries policy, the Commission asked for this debate to be carried out in 2002, to be able to inform the Council in 2003². Consequently; and although with a certain time lag, we need to make proposals to tackle this question about which not all the producers are in agreement as regards its establishment, since it can deal with subjects as significant as the relative stability or the concentration of rights in few hands.
2. To analyze national management systems based on the fishing rights, it would be initially necessary to know them in-depth

For this reason, the EAPO shares with the Commission the need for carrying out preliminary studies on the instruments of stock management in the various Member States

3. As for the possibility of establishing fishing rights at community level, the EAPO considers that the principal problem is as to prevent that the establishment of the fishing rights affects the relative stability
4. What appears clear is that, as the Commission indicates in its Regulations on the adjustment of quotas³ every year important imbalances are produced in some fisheries and in some Community fishing areas, between quotas assigned to Member States and catches taken by the latter, so much for pelagic species as for demersal species. These imbalances, which in some cases produce "quota surplus" and in other "deficit quotas", affect the majority of the Member States subject to each fishery and each fishing zone
5. In the EAPO's opinion, the Commission should carry out a study which, by maintaining rights acquired from relative stability, would offer possible final solutions to these imbalances. This way, the EAPO considers that we could smooth the way towards the establishment of fishing rights at community level, while establishing measures which prevent dominant positions in the market of rights.

José A. Suárez Llanos
EAPO's President

¹ COM (2007) 73 final de 26.2.2007

² COM (2002) 181 final de 28.5.2002

³ For instance, those referred to the last three years: Regulations No. 776/2005, 742/2006 y 609/2007