

Luxembourg, 24.10.2006

Dear Joe,

I am very pleased for today's meeting since it gives me the opportunity to inform you about some major remaining issues on the Mediterranean fisheries management proposal that you have planned to be adopted during the forthcoming Agriculture-Fisheries Council, in November.

The remaining difficult points for my delegation, for which your intervention is important, are as following:

For trawl nets:

- maintaining the codend mesh size as it stands. In other case, implementation of an enough long transitory period could be a solution to the Commission proposal for mesh size amendment.
- For the same category of fishing vessels, the minimum distance from the coast for trawl nets should be one mile due to geographical constraints of my country.

Purse Seines:

- The use of purse seines shall be prohibited within 300 meters of the coast or within the 30 meters isobath where that depth is reached at a shorter distance from the coast. We also propose to delete the relation between the deployed depth of a purse seine and the percentage of the overall drop of the purse seine itself.

For the beach seines:

- we believe that the use of this traditional fishing gear would be continued as it stands or during a long transitory period.