

Brussels, 25.08.2014  
MK/pb Ares (2014) )2974579

Dear Mr. Garat and Mr. O'Donoghue,

I write in reply to your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> August about my blog posting "Pocket guide to you beach holidays".

In this posting I express an opinion that it is better to avoid eating young fish, and to give preference to fish that have been caught with gears that have a lower ecosystem impact.

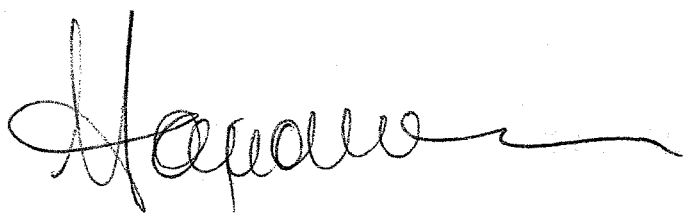
While it is legal to catch and to eat such fish, it is not the case that the policies of the European Commission – or my opinions – are confined to issuing positive comments on what is currently lawful. It is of course my responsibility, together with my fellow Commissioners, to develop and to promote new policy and propose new legislation.

The issues I wrote about are matters where the Commission has already expressed a view. Improving fisheries selectivity has been a policy element of the Common Fisheries Policy for many years, as has the reduction of the impact of fishing gears on non-target species<sup>1</sup>. Impacts on the marine ecosystem as a whole are also covered in detail in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

I particularly mentioned driftnet fishing. This is very relevant given that my proposal on this gear is before Council and Parliament.

I appreciate that some sectors of the fishing industry may not yet be ready to take on board these issues, but my responsibility as Commissioner is to look to long-term sustainability of the seas and the interests of all European citizens.

Yours sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) 850/98 of 30 March 1998 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms, and Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: the role of the CFP in implementing an ecosystem approach to marine management[SEC(2008) 449]