



MINISTER  
FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOREIGN TRADE

H.E. Sofoclis Aletraris  
Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment  
and president of the European Council of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Hague, 2 November 2012  
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Your Excellency,

Following recent elections, the composition of the Dutch Parliament has changed. On 11 October 2012 the new Parliament carried a motion whereby the Dutch Government was asked to adopt the proposal of the European Fisheries sector regarding the reduction of discards, and to promote this position in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

The proposal of the European Fisheries Sector, represented by the European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPF), Europêche and Cogeca, is based on three key points:

- A landing obligation for fisheries resources which have been below the biological minimum stock size for three consecutive years
- An obligation to reduce by-catch from other fisheries resources
- An obligation for Member States to analyse the current situation regarding unwanted by-catches.

In response to the motion of 11 October, I informed Parliament that the Council's General Approach of 12 June 2012 should form the basis for further negotiations on the Common Fisheries Policy and that I would ask you to take the proposals of the European Fisheries Sector into consideration when dealing with reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Henk Bleker

This letter was also sent to Euro commissioner Damanaki