



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**STATEMENT
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ON THE REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

At a joint meeting held on **5 October 2011**, the Agriculture and Forests Committee and the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds discussed **the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union**.

As a result of the broad discussion with all parties concerned: executive and legislative branches of government and representatives of industrial associations, **the Agriculture and Forests Committee and the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds adopted the following position, which will be sent to the EU institutions:**

- We support the sweeping reform of the EU fisheries policy as proposed by the European Commission.
- We welcome the strengthening of the role of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations in decision making, exchange of best practices, and making the best use of scientific research data.
- An effective model of co-operation needs to be built among all Black Sea States sharing in the exploitation of stocks, for the purpose of their sustainable management.
- We acknowledge the need to set up a Black Sea Advisory Council, considering the specificities of the Black Sea as an enclosed sea basin whose shared resources are exploited by third countries as well, and with a view to building an accurate database.
- Particular attention should be paid to multi-annual management following the ecosystem approach, since the introduction of multi-annual management plans for stock management and replenishment are a more suitable vehicle for attainment of the objective of sustainable management of fisheries.
- Regarding scientific research, resources should be managed on the basis of adequate and reliable scientific knowledge. We do not support the automatic 25 per cent reduction in total allowable catches in the cases where there are no scientific data, as well as the unconditional attainment of maximum sustainable yield levels by 2015.
- We believe it is necessary to ensure strong financial support for the fisheries sector on the part of the European Union, and we will insist on preservation of the current budget of



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the European Fisheries Fund in respect of the future financial facility for the Fisheries Sector. This will enable the Republic of Bulgaria to maintain and modernise its fishing fleet.

- We support the need to promote the development of aquaculture, including development backed by an appropriately larger financing from the EU budget.
- We deem it advisable to extend transferable fishing concessions to vessels of over 12 meters, from the point of view of improving the sustainability of European fisheries.
- We entirely support the imposition of bans on throwing unwanted fish overboard. Addressing this issue adequately will help enhance the responsibility of participants in the sector, will have a favourable impact on stock management and conservation, and will create conditions for more comprehensive utilisation of the marine resources harvested for human consumption.
- In accordance with the proportionality principle, the reform should be adopted in such a way so as to minimise the imposition of additional administrative and financial burdens on the EU Member States.