

FISHERIES



CFP reform – the external dimension



**European
Commission**
Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries

Matthias Leonhard Maier
MARE B.3 – Bilateral Agreements

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Core documents – published 13 July 2011

- **Commission Communication on External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy – COM(2011) 424 – covering:**
 - Informal bilateral relations (“Northern” countries – US, Japan, Russia, ...)
 - Regional fisheries management organisations
 - Bilateral fisheries agreements (developing countries)
 - Multilateral organisations (UN, OECD, ...)
 - Policy coherence
- **Commission proposal for new “Basic Regulation” – COM(2011) 425**
 - To repeal Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002
 - New part (Art. 39–42) on external policy
 - Impact assessment (SEC(2011) 891) includes separate study on external dimension (Annex 11)

More effective RFMOs

- **Efficient decision-making in RFMOs based on solid science**
(→ *Art. 39 draft Basic Reg.*)
- **Increased compliance through sanctions/incentives and control measures** (→ *Art. 40*)
- **Capacity management**
- **Consider fees for placing vessels on authorised-vessels lists of some RFMOs**

FPAs – status quo

- **Current fisheries partnership agreements**
 - 15 FPAs in force (Eastern Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Pacific, Greenland)
 - Access to third countries' EEZs <-> financial compensation from EU budget + ship-owners' contribution
 - Partnership element: support to third-country fisheries policy
 - Yearly EU budget: ~ 160 M€
- **Shortcomings**
 - Gaps in scientific knowledge (state of stocks)
 - Lack of info on total fishing effort (local + EU + other DWF)
 - Limits to sector-specific absorption capacity of third countries

New generation of agreements (SFAs)

- **Reinforced governance (→ Art. 41(1))**
 - Introducing human rights clause
 - Closing loopholes in exclusivity clause (reflagging)
 - Increasing ship-owners' share of payments
- **Better knowledge base – targeting surplus only (→ Art. 41(2))**
 - Scientific audits on mixed agreements
 - Complete, reliable catch data
 - Transparency clause (→ total effort)
 - Maintaining/restoring MSY
- **More effective sectoral support (→ Art. 42)**
 - Sectoral support decoupled from payments for access right
 - Based on third countries' sector-specific needs, absorption capacity
 - Stronger conditionality