



Ministry of Economic Affairs

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Re Control and enforcement in North Western Waters

Dear Mr. Gatt,

On 18 June 2015, you sent a letter to Mr. Cecil Beamish, Director General of Fisheries in Ireland, with a request for a meeting regarding monitoring, control and enforcement. On 1 July last, the Netherlands took over the Presidency of the NWW group from our Irish colleagues for the second half of 2015. One of the priorities of this presidency term is control and enforcement.

The NWW Control Expert Group (CEG) has submitted its recommendations on control of the LO in pelagic fisheries to the High Level Group (HLG). Control will be discussed at the next Directors' meeting on 24 September 2015. You will receive an invitation to that meeting in due course. In the meantime, I would like to invite you to submit a position paper before 15 September on the following outstanding issues:

- Compliance and control strategies should not only be implemented in a harmonious manner, but should also avoid any conflicts with the strategies implemented in adjacent regions, especially the NS and SWW. The HLG would appreciate an overview and description of trans-regional fisheries.
- The CEG has recommended that the inherent High Risk category of vessels (pelagic freezer and RSW trawlers) be subject to continuous compliance monitoring during all fishing trips through the installation of CCTV/REM systems. This monitoring would be supplemented by data analysis and inspections at sea and after landing. The HLG welcomes the opinion of the Pelagic AC regarding the use of CCTV, observers or other measures, and is interested in an ambitious timetable for implementing these measures.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Dr. Ir. Marieke Mossink
Director for Fisheries