

EP(15)69

Brussels, 20th July 2015

Mr. Fernand Etgen,
Luxembourg's Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture and Consumer Protection
President-in-office of the Council
Council of the EU,
Rue de la Loi 175 B,
B – 1048 Brussels

Re: Luxembourg Presidency proposal on Deep sea fisheries (2012/0179(COD))

Dear President Etgen,

On behalf of the Europêche, the representative body for fishermen in the European Union representing around 45,000 vessels, both artisanal and large scale, 80,000 fishermen and counting 13 member organisations from 9 European countries, we would like to inform you about the EU fishing industry concerns regarding the Presidency's proposal on the deep sea regulation.

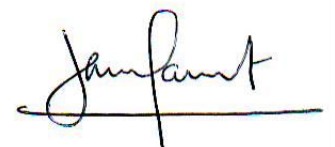
We are pleased to send attached our **position paper** detailing the main issues that the implementation of such a proposal will bring about. We would like to draw your attention to the **following priorities for the fishing industry** in order to make this new regulation feasible and workable in practice:

- Scope of the regulation
- Targeting Fishing Authorisations
- 800 metres depth ban
- Impact assessment
- Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)

Europêche strongly call on the Council of the EU to stay as close as possible to the democratic compromise reached by the European Parliament which ensures the viability of our fragile coastal communities, particularly local fishing ports highly dependent on deep-sea fisheries whilst at the same time guarantees the sustainability of our fish stocks.

I trust this position will be duly taken into consideration during the following discussions within the Council of the EU, and that this will pave the way for a positive trilogue with the European Parliament and the European Commission. A in-depth analysis of the proposal will follow.

Yours sincerely,



Javier GARAT
President

Copy: The Permanent Representations to the EU