



HOUSE OF LORDS
European Union Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4579
Fax: 020 7219 6715
euclords@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

3 April 2019

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Block
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Robert,

EM 9317/18 Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1005/2008, and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control

Thank you for your letter on the above Proposal, dated 21 March, which was considered by our Energy and Environment Sub-Committee at its meeting on 3 April.

Thank you for explaining that other Member States share your concerns about the proposals to track smaller vessels and to require smaller vessels to report their catches. We note that Spain has suggested changes to this aspect of the Proposal. Please keep us updated on negotiations on this matter.

Thank you for explaining that you do not expect the Proposal to have significant implications for the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre or the UK Fishing Call Centre, or for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

We note that you have yet to receive a response to your concerns over the imposition of penalty points but that amendments have been proposed that would allow the UK to meet the requirements of the Regulation. Please keep us updated on how this issue develops and if the amendments are agreed.

Thank you for explaining that you do not hold data on proportion of the UK catch that sea anglers are responsible for, and it has been estimated at anywhere from 2 per cent to 43 per cent. Have there been any changes to the aspects of the Proposal related to recreational fisheries, since the UK and other Member States raised their concerns?

Thank you for explaining that discussions on developing minimum requirements for Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) systems have begun, and that it will be considered by an expert group in the coming weeks. Please keep us updated on these discussions and on the European Fisheries Control Agency's plans to establish a working group to address data sharing and standards for audits. Are you content that enough work on this issue has been done to effectively implement the aspects of the Proposal relating to REM?

We note that you intend to assess the impact of the aspects of the Proposal related to traceability if a withdrawal agreement between the EU and the UK is reached. Again, please keep us updated on this issue.

We note that access to the EU CATCH system is not required to export fish to the EU and that the UK is developing its own IT system to enable exporters to obtain a UK catch certificate online. When will this be fully operational? We previously asked whether the UK would have the same access as Member States have to the EU CATCH system if a transition period is agreed. Please provide an answer to this question.

Thank you for explaining that amendments have been proposed in relation to the obligation for continuous engine power monitoring. Would these amendments address your concerns? Please keep us updated on this issue.

We note that there has been no further progress in addressing concerns over the aspects of the Proposal relating to logging and recording lost fishing gear. Again, please keep us updated as negotiations proceed.

Thank you for providing an update on the progress of the Proposal overall and for explaining that no additional concerns have arisen. We note that workshops are expected to provide Member States with the opportunity to discuss shared concerns. Please keep us updated on these discussions.

We have decided to retain this Proposal under scrutiny and look forward to a reply to this letter within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, the Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, Jessica Mulley, Clerk of the European Scrutiny Committee; Les Saunders, DExEU, and John Leach and Craig White, Scrutiny Coordinators, DEFRA.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Boswell

Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee