

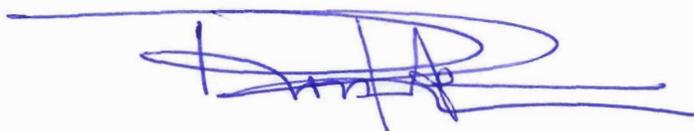
Ms Maria DAMANAKI  
Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
European Commission  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
Belgium

31<sup>st</sup> May 2011

Dear Commissioner,

Please find attached a joint declaration on behalf of France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Belgium concerning the future financial instrument of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Yours sincerely,



Rosa AGUILAR RIVERO  
Spanish Minister of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs



Simon COVENEY  
Irish Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food



Francesco Saverio ROMANO  
Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies



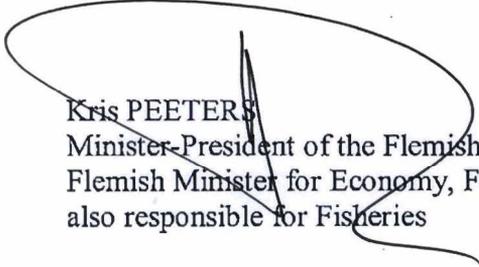
Antonio MANUEL SERRANO  
Portuguese Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Bruno LE MAIRE

French Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Spatial planning and Rural Development

*Bruno Le Maire*

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Kris PEETERS

Minister-President of the Flemish Government,

Flemish Minister for Economy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture and Rural Policy,

also responsible for Fisheries

## **Joint Declaration on the Future Financial Instrument of the Common Fisheries Policy**

France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Belgium,

1. consider that, in order for the European fishing and aquaculture industry to adapt to the new challenges it faces, a strong financial instrument dedicated to supporting the industry must be maintained, without prejudice to the final outcome of the discussions over the future financial perspectives,
2. would like this financial instrument to fully contribute to the future economic, environmental and social objectives of the common fisheries policy, in line with the orientations of the Europe 2020 strategy,
3. believe that funding for this future instrument benefitting the fishing and aquaculture sector must, at minimum, be maintained at the same level as for the 2007-2013 period, based on the importance of the sector in each Member State,
4. consider that this financial instrument should contribute to the adaptation of the European fishing fleet in order to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives of the future common fisheries policy. The reduction of the fleet's capacity and of the fishing effort for fisheries where this is still necessary in view of achieving sustainability targets should be taken into account for a transitional period,
5. also express their commitment to maintain European financing in favor of modernizing vessels in a targeted manner, in particular to reduce energy consumption, promote more selective fishing methods, improve on-board security while taking account of the diversity of European fleets, and support young fishermen,
6. consider that the future instrument must promote the sustainable development of European aquaculture and, in this respect, in addition to any measures that might be supported today, financially support professional aquaculture farms, the implementation of risk management tools and the settling in of young professionals, in the same vein as existing measures in the farming sector,
7. would like the future instrument to contribute: to the development of partnerships between the scientific community and fishing and aquaculture professionals; to collective and joint management actions by fisheries; to the operational and other fisheries' control costs of Member States ; to research and development, including the use of full-scale experimentation, particularly in terms of energy efficiency; to strengthen producers' organizations ; to improve the commercialization and the promotion of European fishing and aquaculture products ; and to helping fishermen and fish farmers adopt practices that are particularly respectful of the resource and the environment,
8. renew their commitment to support for coastal and inland areas dependent on fishing and aquaculture, intended to improve the working conditions of these professionals, and promote the fishing and aquaculture industry in these regions,
9. point out the importance of maintaining specific methods of management and support in favor of outermost regions, in accordance with Article 349 of the TFEU, account taken of the specific characteristics and constraints of these regions,
10. underscore the need for simplified programming and management methods in order to guarantee the effectiveness of the future financial instrument, and the need to foresee its assessment with respect to economic, environmental and social indicators specific to the support measures being financed.