



Brussels Rural Development Briefings
A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

Briefing session n° 10:
Fighting against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU):
Impacts and challenges for ACP countries

29th April 2009

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1005/2008—the Catch Certification Scheme for Fishery
Products Imported from Third Countries.
A Private Sector View from South Africa

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Executive Summary

The private sector needs the Catch Certification Scheme to be applied in a trade neutral manner as would the EC itself, but there is reason to think that come 1 Jan 2010 the Regulation in its present form could have negative effects on exporters who depend heavily on European Trade.

Concern naturally focuses on detail of the certification system in the belief that most other perceived difficulties can be resolved if certification can be suitably rectified.

The apparent emphasis on RFMO activities with their relatively simple tracing mechanisms and the extension of these ideas to the rest of the world creates a basis for potential problems. Numerous examples demonstrate that the organization of commercial fishing, in South Africa alone, is so diverse that it will be very difficult to capture the envisaged traceability standard in a single straightforward scheme. Something not too dissimilar from the food safety system already in force may be suitable. Also, the role envisaged for fishing vessel skippers needs to be moderated or eliminated.

Another potential problem area arises from the possibility of legal complications. In certain fisheries management regimes the interaction of EC1005/2008 with the local legal system may lead to perverse outcomes. A possible solution may lie in selected Competent Authorities being allowed some discretion.

On balance a certification scheme best serves the purpose although certain modifications are indicated. All real difficulties can be resolved and the Authorities will need to work quickly and imaginatively to get things ready in time.