



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

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The impact of the EC regulation on ACP countries and ACP responses

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Executive Summary

The EC needs to be congratulated for the courage and foresight in developing the IUU Regulation, which is by far the most comprehensive regional measure implemented to combat IUU fishing. The actual implications of the IUU Regulation on ACP countries can only be fully assessed when they are implemented.

To comply with the requirements by the IUU Regulation, ACP countries that export fish and fisheries products into the EC will need to develop and implement appropriate administrative and legislative measures beyond what is currently in national fisheries legislation. Areas of particular attention would include frameworks to address data collection to meet the requirements of the Regulation, monitoring of fishing vessels where such laws do not exist already, and port State verification procedures and measures.

The immediate actions that need to be taken include: (a) the need to urgently undertake gaps analysis and assessment of the administrative, technical and legislative frameworks in individual ACP countries; (b) where there are gaps, the urgent development of template legislation and administrative procedures which can be adapted by each ACP country. Urgent consideration should also be given by the EC of a flexible implementation time-table to allow the ACP countries to adjust their domestic processes to meet the requirements of the Regulation.

The EC must acknowledge the vulnerability of developing countries and the difficulties that they will face in implementing the requirements of the Regulation. It is essential that developing countries do not, directly or indirectly, bear a disproportionate burden of global efforts to combat IUU fishing. Serious consideration must therefore be given to capacity building assistance to the ACP countries in their efforts to implement the IUU Regulation.