Following last week's Vigo meeting of EU ministers responsible for fisheries, the head of the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) of Spain, Elena Espinosa, announced that the ministers and the representatives of the European Commission (CE) and the European Parliament “reached unanimous agreement with regard to establishing a set of priorities” for the reform of the current Common Fisheries policy.

Espinosa described the following as priorities that had been agreed:

- Differentiation between artisanal and industrial fishing;
- Creation of a specific fund for small-scale fishing, which includes environmental, technological and trade measures, without leaving out the social dimension;
- Seeking other options for "Mixed" fisheries , noting that current policy with regard to total allowable catch (TAC) and quotas does not constitute the only viable management model;
- Avoiding discards and looking for formulas to minimise their impact;
- Taking a bottom-up approach to decision making and greatly simplifying common fisheries policy governance;
- Providing a much more active role to regional fishing organisations, particularly in those fishing areas where there is less monitoring.

The EU hopes to have its legislative reform proposal ready by 2011, so that the new policy can take effect in 2013.

More here

TAGS: EU fisheries, Common Fisheries Policy, fsheries, sustainable, overfishing

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