



Brussels,
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I hereby confirm that the consortium of Ecorys Nederland B.V., COWI and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) has been contracted by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) to undertake the following study:

Evaluation of Directive 97/70/EC setting up a harmonised safety regime for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over

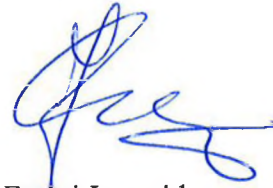
This study aims to support the European Commission in the evaluation of Directive 97/70/EC. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess whether the Directive has achieved its objectives, notably as regards enhancing the safety of fishing vessels and ensuring a level playing field in fishing without compromising safety standards and making provision for specific requirements for specific regional circumstances, such as geographical or climatic. The evaluation will provide a thorough assessment of the performance of all provisions of the Directive across Member States, since its adoption. In particular, the evaluation will:

- cover the current implementation and enforcement of the Directive's provisions by EU Member States in operational terms, including the infrastructure and human resources in place;
- examine the extent to which safety issues are adequately addressed by the Directive;
- consider the objectives, scope and measures in the Directive in relation to technological developments since 1993, including improvements in the international merchant shipping sector, as well as in other pieces of EU shipping legislation;
- assess the scope of the Directive which does not cover smaller fishing vessels, a sector in which a major proportion of accidents occur;
- assess the impact of changes in new requirements resulting from the introduction of the Agreement, also from the legal perspective, since ratifying EU Member States will face a situation where they will have to enforce two differing sets of requirements.

In the framework of this assignment, the research team of Ecorys, COWI and UPM will contact various stakeholders; I would greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide the Ecorys, COWI and UPM team in this regard.

If you require any further information, please contact Linette de Swart (linette.deswart@ecorys.com) of Ecorys, who is responsible for the data collection or alternatively the policy officer in charge at the European Commission, Richard Mason (richard.mason@ec.europa.eu) of DG MOVE D.2 Maritime Safety.

Yours sincerely,



Fotini Ioannidou
Head of Unit