

08. 03. 2006

Brussels,
CAB/D 106

Your reference: JA/ED/Fisheries/1605

Dear Mr Allister,

With regard to your letter of 31 January 2006 concerning the possibility of applying a tie-up scheme for one more year in the context of the temporary closure for cod in the Irish Sea, I am pleased to inform you that FIFG funds are still available for co-financing such a scheme in 2006.

In fact, the vessels which ceased fishing activities during the closure of the Irish Sea from 14 February to 30 April in 2004 and 2005 were partially compensated by a tie-up scheme co-financed by FIFG. The total period of closure and thus compensation over the two year period amounts to five months.

Council Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999, article 16 (1) c) does not exclude the possibility whereby the limit of compensation for one year is divided into periods of a shorter duration over several years. Furthermore, as the financial contribution does not exceed the thresholds in paragraph 3 of 1 million euros or 4% of the Community financial assistance allocated to the sector in the Member State concerned, it is not necessary to obtain approval of the scheme from the Commission.

Yours sincerely,



Mr James H Allister QC MEP
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