



for a living planet®



GREENPEACE



European Commission
Commissioner Mr J. Borg
Berlaymont
BERL 11/30
Rue de la Loi, 200
1040 – Brussels
Belgium

Our reference : JB/04.075
Subject : Dutch Eel Management Plan

Bilthoven, 24th April 2009

Dear Mr Borg,

While taking the critical European eel situation into account, we are pleased with the fact that in June 2007 the European Agriculture and Fisheries Council voted unanimously in favour of a European eel regulation, which instructs – among others – the European Member States to take measures for eel stock recovery.

In total confusion and disbelief we – the Dutch nature, water and recreational anglers organisations – have been informed on the second version (1 April 2009) of the Dutch Eel Management Plan, which was recently submitted to the European Commission.

Insufficient

In our view, this second version of the Dutch Eel Management Plan, which lacks a broad social base, is ultimately insufficient and will barely contribute to eel recovery.

The idea to translocate 157 ton silver eel to the sea – provided this would be biologically possible – totally lacks any scientific arguments and does not even come close to comply with the requirements stipulated by Brussels.

While several scientific advices indicate that the basis of the current glass eel migration to the Dutch coast – only 1% when compared to 20 years ago – does not allow a sustainable eel fishery, the current plan enables the professional fishery to continue unlimited fishing on red eel and escaping silver eel.

Care for humans and nature

When considering the items referred to above, we kindly urge you to take a critical look at the Dutch Eel Management Plan and the effect thereof on the intended eel stock recovery. We therefore ask you to reject this plan and to instruct the Dutch government to take stricter measures in order to expedite the essential eel stock recovery.

Good stewardship – care for humans and nature in future generations – is after all a cornerstone of the European policy. We count on your efforts.

We are prepared to exchange ideas on this topic with you, and look forward to your reaction.

Yours faithfully,
also on behalf of

- Vereniging Natuurmonumenten
- WWF
- Water Natuurlijk
- Stichting de Noordzee
- Greenpeace

Ir. Joop Bongers
Director Sportvisserij Nederland

CC: Parlement, commissie voor LNV, Ministerie van LNV, Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat, Unie van Waterschappen, ICES, Waterschappen