




EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Director-General

Brussels,
MARE.E.4/ 

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF
MR SELMAYR, SECRETARY-GENERAL
MR ROMERO REQUENA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, LEGAL SERVICE

**Subject: Infringement Netherlands - draft letter of formal notice – Failure to
comply with EU law on the use of electric fishing**

The Commission received a complaint regarding the alleged non-compliance by the Netherlands with the EU rules on the use of electric pulse fishing methods. This triggered the opening of the EU Pilot case No EUP(2018)9298. Based on the information provided by the Dutch authorities through the EU Pilot procedure and gathered by DG MARE in the course of its investigations, we came to the conclusion that the Netherlands are not respecting the EU threshold for the use of electric pulse trawl, nor are they complying with the EU provision permitting the use of this fishing method only when the fishing operations are conducted solely for the purposes of scientific research.

The exchange of correspondence that took place between the Netherlands and DG MARE did not allow to solve these non-compliances. As a consequence, DG MARE is of the opinion that the case warrants the institution of formal infringement proceedings.

In view of the political sensitiveness of the file, the Netherlands have not yet been informed in EU Pilot of the intention to move to an infringement. For that same reason, the NIF fiche is still in a draft word version.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with your approval of or your possible comments on the attached draft letter of formal notice as soon as possible so that this case can be placed on the agenda of the 24 January 2019 infringement cycle.

(e-signed)



Enclosure: Draft letter of formal notice
Draft fiche NIF (word version)

c.c.:

[Redacted]
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