

DRAFT

**Opening Statement at the Annual General Meeting of the
North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council
In DUBLIN on the 27th of October 2010**

Mr Chairman of the Executive Committee,
Mr Director,
..... (depending on the people and personalities present)
Members of the Advisory Council,
Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Dublin for the fifth Annual General Meeting of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council.

Yes, for five years we have been working together to improve dialogue between us and Community authorities. You will see later on today and tomorrow that there are many subjects programmed on the agenda.

I have acquired the habit of developing a specific theme each year and today, I would like to share with you a subject that is dear to my heart as I live with it everyday in Brittany.

While we can hope for improvements in relation to fisheries resources due to the reduction in the number of vessels, a more rigorous enforcement of fisheries regulations and therefore to the efforts of industry professionals, the European fisheries sector already has to face new challenges.

Indeed, fishery territories are becoming more and more coveted and fishermen are being asked to give way to other activities, such as the installation of wind farms, material extraction areas, or discharge areas for harbour sludge, or even protected marine areas, where fishing is longer desirable.

Taken independently, these issues do not lead to major consequences, but when presented everywhere at the same time, they constitute new concerns for fishery businesses, whereas I have just said, we were finally able to hope for medium and long term economic visibility.

It is not a question of going against the spirit of our time, but I think that we need to deal with these subjects in the RAC and join our efforts so that fisheries are not systematically penalised by these industrial or environmental projects.

Before handing over, I would like to thank the RAC team who keep us informed everyday in relation to Community developments. I thank you for your attention and I hope that each and every one of you has an excellent day.

André LE BERRE
Chairman of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council