COMMISSION DECISION

of 1 March 2006

declaring operational the Regional Advisory Council for the Baltic Sea under the common fisheries policy

(2006/191/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 2004/585/EC of 19 July 2004 establishing Regional Advisory Councils under the common fisheries policy [1], and in particular Article 3(3) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation transmitted by Denmark on 13 December 2005 on behalf of Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the common fisheries policy [2] and Decision 2004/585/EC provide the framework for the establishment and operation of Regional Advisory Councils.

(2) Article 2 of Decision 2004/585/EC establishes a Regional Advisory Council to cover the Baltic Sea in International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) areas IIIb, IIIc and IIId as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 3880/91 [3].

(3) In accordance with Article 3(1) of Decision 2004/585/EC, representatives of the fisheries sector and other interests groups submitted a request concerning the operation of that Regional Advisory Council to Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden.

(4) As required by Article 3(2) of Decision 2004/585/EC, the Member States concerned determined whether the application concerning the Regional Advisory Council for the Baltic Sea was in conformity with the provisions laid down in that Decision. On 13 December 2005, the Member States concerned transmitted a recommendation on that Regional Advisory Council to the Commission.

(5) The Commission has evaluated the application by the interested parties and the recommendation in the light of Decision 2004/585/EC and the aims and principles of the Common Fisheries Policy, and considers that the Regional Advisory Council for the Baltic Sea is ready to become operational,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Regional Advisory Council for the Baltic Sea, established by Article 2(1)(a) of Decision 2004/585/EC, shall be operational as from 13 March 2006.

Done at Brussels, 1 March 2006.

For the Commission
Joe BORG
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 256, 3.8.2004, p. 17.
[2] OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59.
[3] OJ L 365, 31.12.1991, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 448/2005 (OJ L 74, 19.3.2005, p. 5).