



**DET KONGELIGE
FISKERIDEPARTEMENT**

Royal Ministry of Fisheries

Agenda item 12b - for discussion

AM 2004/13

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
22 Berners Street
London W1T 3DY
ENGLAND

Your ref.

Our ref.
200400809-/SW

Date

Dear Mr. Høydal,

I have the honour to forward to you, in accordance with Article 19 (1) of the NEAFC Convention, a proposal from Norway to amend the NEAFC Convention.

Norway proposes to replace Article 3 (5) of the Convention to read as follows:

“The Office of the Commission shall be in London, or at such other place as may be decided by the Commission.”

Please forward this proposal to the other Contracting Parties so that NEAFC can consider it at the 23rd Annual Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Johán H. Williams
Director General

Proposal by Norway to amend the Convention

With reference to the ongoing discussions about where the NEAFC Secretariat should be located in the future, Norway proposes to amend Article 3 Paragraph 5 of the Convention. This allows the Commission to consider other alternatives than London when to decide this question.

It seems clear that the Secretariat under no circumstances can continue to rent premises in 22 Berners Street after March 2006. It also looks like NEAFC in any case cannot hold the annual meeting in 2005 in present meeting facilities, since the building will be refurbished and this work probably will start already in April 2005. The Commission has therefore to reach a decision on this issue as soon as possible, in order for the Secretariat to be able to find suitable premises and to arrange the relocation.

Different alternatives have been introduced. NEAFC can either buy its own premises with or without meeting facilities, or rent both offices and meeting facilities. Both alternatives are expensive, since it must be expected that the rent will be at least at the same level as present rent anywhere else in central London. According to calculations that have been made, buying premises will mean substantial savings in the long term. However, this requires a large one-off contribution from all the member countries. The budget situation in Norway and probably also in other member countries makes this a challenge. Norway is therefore of the opinion that the discussion about the location of the Secretariat should not be limited to London, since most likely it will be possible to find premises either to buy or rent at a lower price outside of London. Norway therefore proposes an amendment to the Convention.

Norway proposes to replace Article 3 (5) of the Convention to read as follows:

“The Office of the Commission shall be in London, or at such other place as may be decided by the Commission.”