

It is perhaps worth pointing out that nations in such terribly straitened circumstances as Poland are committed to conservation and good resource management under NAFO. The same is true of the USSR, Japan, Norway, Cuba, the German Democratic Republic, Denmark on behalf of the Faeroes Islands and Greenland, as well as Canada.

The World Commission on Environment and Development, the Brundtland Commission, defined sustainable development as:

"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The EC is compromising the ability of present as well as future generations to harvest these fisheries resources in a sustainable way.

Canada has undertaken a political dialogue on this issue with the European Commission and the member states. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Tom Siddon and I have raised this issue with the Commission as well as European Ministers, and we will continue to do so until it is resolved. I will be taking Canada's message to Ministers in France and Germany, where I will be next week.

Today, I am seeking to broaden that process, to inform those who analyze, comment and report on European policy about the gravity and urgency of this issue.

At the most recent NAFO meeting, the EC, for the first time, abstained rather than simply voting against NAFO quotas. Within the next 60 days, the EC must indicate whether it intends to comply with the conservation measures accepted by all of the NAFO members or will once again set unilateral quotas for itself. The worsening situation in the Northwest Atlantic fisheries demonstrates that the time for the EC to return to the NAFO fold is now.

We are committed to the principle of sustainable development. The EC says it adheres to the same principles and seeks to provide leadership to the world in addressing environmental concerns. What we ask is that the EC join with us and the other members of NAFO in practicing what we and they preach in the conduct of the fishery of the Northwest Atlantic.