

Proposal for Spring Congress

Proposal
701

LYMEC Spring Congress, April 05.-07., 2019 in Brussels

Author: JOVD – Benjamin Broekhuizen

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Spring Congress may decide:

1 **Securing a sustainable future for fisheries**

2 **Noting that:**

- 3 . The European Parliament voted to ban electric pulse fishing in January 2018 following an
4 amendment to that effect tabled by the Greens
- 5 . This will result the technique electric pulse fishing to be banned starting in 2021
- 6 . The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) issued an advice in May
7 2018 stating electric pulse trawls have fewer ecological and environmental effects when
8 compared to more traditional beam trawls when fishing for flatfish such as the common sole
- 9 . Electric pulse fishing especially has advantages when it comes to the sustainable
10 exploitation of the species, injuries and mortality of non-retained specimens, the mechanical
11 disturbance of the seabed, the structure and functioning of the benthic ecosystem, and the
12 impact of repetitive exposure, as found by ICES and research institutes

13 **Considering that:**

- 14 . The ban was informed more by fearmongering not based in any form of scientific evidence
15 and protectionist considerations than anything else
- 16 . Electric pulse fishing, together with other fisheries policies outlined in the LYMEC
17 programme can secure a sustainable future for fisheries by lessening environmental impact
- 18 . The development of electric pulse fishing can be a boost not only to the European fishing
19 industry, but can help propel the European Union forward as the home of sustainable and
20 innovative fishing practices, securing an international export market and the potential to drive
21 sustainable fishing practices worldwide

22 **LYMEC:**

- 23 . Calls upon ALDE, as well as its members and their youth movements, to oppose the
24 impending ban on electric pulse fishing with vehemence, as it runs counter to scientific evidence
25 and the ICES advice, and cuts off a potential source of innovation in fishing
- 26 . Urges the aforementioned parties to insist upon evidence-based market policy making
27 within the European Union and to oppose any form of covert protectionism stifling innovation and
28 progress when it comes to fisheries.

Attention: This is a preview! The official text is printed in the proposal book for Spring Congress 05. - 07. April 2019.