

EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

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PECHE 67

EINGEGANGEN am

29. April 1996

"I"/"A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council

dated: 22 February 1996

to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop.: 4624/96 PECHE 35 SEC(96) 92 final

Subject: Adoption in the official languages of the Communities of a Council Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a fisheries agreement with Mozambique

1. On 26 January 1996, the Commission submitted a recommendation for the above Decision to the Council. Its purpose is to authorize the Commission to negotiate the above fisheries agreement on behalf of the Community.
2. At its meeting on 19 February 1996, the Working Party on External Fisheries Policy gave its agreement in principle to this recommendation ⁽¹⁾.
3. It is accordingly suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee confirm the Working Party's agreement and ask the Council to decide, as an "A" item for a forthcoming meeting, to authorize the Commission to negotiate a new fisheries agreement with Mozambique on the basis of the attached negotiating directives.

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⁽¹⁾ The Danish delegation has since informed the General Secretariat of the withdrawal of the parliamentary scrutiny reservation tabled at the meeting.

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ANNEX

NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES

1. The Commission's key objectives in the negotiations pending with certain African and Indian Ocean countries are:

- the preservation of fishing rights acquired under agreements concluded by the Member States,
- the restoration or continuation of other traditional Community fishing activities, and
- the acquisition of new rights of access.

This will increase the overall fishing opportunities available to Community vessels, with due regard for the principle of rational exploitation of stocks. In the case of Mozambique, the aim is to restore to a reasonable level the fishing activities traditionally exercised by the Community, in accordance with the requirements of the conservation and rational management of resources.

2. The overall approach remains that established in directives to the Commission for the negotiation of earlier fisheries agreements with developing countries, under which the Community offers no reciprocal fishing rights.
3. The package to be offered is twofold:
 - a financial contribution payable by the Community, comprising funding that may be used to develop the partner country's fisheries sector and grants for research and training;

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- payments by shipowners, that may notably include licence fees.

To put an overall picture on the financial package, account must be taken of the value of the fishing opportunities offered, the effective duration of the fishing season, the proportion of catches landed in the partner country and the regional dimension of the activity.

The package must be economically sound in terms both of the fishing rights acquired under the agreement negotiated and of the fishing rights granted to the Community under other agreements concluded with countries of the region. Account may nevertheless be taken of the special interest to the Community of re-establishing fisheries relations with Mozambique.

With a view to increasing the overall fishing opportunities available to Community shipowners and improving the supply of seafood to the Community, the Commission may seek to establish with the Mozambican authorities a suitable climate for Community operators to invest, on their own initiative, in mutually-advantageous fishing or processing joint ventures with Mozambican operators.

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