



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 March 2013**

**6888/13  
ADD 1 REV 1**

**PECHE 74**

**ADDENDUM TO “I/A” ITEM NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council  
No. Cion prop.: 6194/13 PECHE 49 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED - COM(2013) 50 final  
Subject: Recommendation for a Council decision to authorise the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for a new Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Union of the Comores  
- Adoption of Council Decision

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Delegations will find below statements by the Commission and the Netherlands delegation to be included in the minutes of the Council.

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**Statement by the Commission**

The Commission does not consider it necessary that a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations indicates a substantive legal basis.

However, the Commission is not opposed to it in this case given the particular circumstances in the sector.

**Statement by the Netherlands delegation**

The Netherlands will vote in favour of the negotiating mandate with regard to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Comores. The Netherlands have raised concerns on the bycatch of sharks and rays in the tuna fisheries. The ex-post evaluation indicates that by catches of sharks and rays occur. The Netherlands are of the opinion that the protocol with the Comores should agree on appropriate measures to prevent bycatches of sharks and rays.

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