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REVISED REPORT

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. Cion prop.:	12516/11 PECHE 188 CODEC 1167 - COM(2011) 416 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Organisation of the Markets in Fishery and Aquaculture Products (First reading) <i>- State of play</i>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 13 July 2011 the European Commission presented its proposal on the Common Organisation of the Markets in Fishery and Aquaculture Products ("CMO") to the Council.
2. The CMO proposal is part of the CFP reform package and is designed to contribute to the objectives of the proposed new CFP Regulation. Among the objectives are:
 - the simplification of legal procedures and reporting obligations;
 - strengthening the role of Professional Organisations;
 - a reduction in market support (discontinuation of the withdrawal price system, phasing-out the support for storage aid); and
 - better information to consumers.

3. The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions gave their opinions on 28 March 2012 and 4 May 2012, respectively.¹
4. After an orientation debate held on 19 March 2012, the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council reached a "general approach" in June 2012.²
5. The European Parliament voted on its first reading position on 12 September 2012.³
6. The Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy examined the Parliament's amendments between January and 5 February 2013.
7. On 13 February 2013, the Permanent Representative Committee adopted a negotiating mandate⁴ for an informal trilogue with the European Parliament, which was held on 27 February 2013. A second trilogue was held on 27 March 2013, based on a revision to the mandate made on 20 March 2013.⁵ During these trilogues, the positions converged towards compromises on the large majority of political and technical issues.
8. The "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 22 April 2013 was informed about this state of play.⁶

II. MAIN OUTSTANDING ISSUES

9. The European Parliament and the Council reached a common understanding on the main outstanding issues of political weight during the third trilogue meeting held on 8 May 2013.
10. In particular, it was agreed, subject to confirmation within Council, to add to the provisions on product labelling mandatory information on the gear type used in wild capture fisheries, whereby the list of gear types still has to be finalised at technical level. It was also agreed, under the same proviso, that the mandatory information on the catch area needs to be more detailed than at present, whereby maps or pictograms can be used; a larger aggregation of the designation ("FAO area") could continue to be allowed for long-distance fleets. The Parliament no longer insisted on the "landing date" as mandatory information.

¹ OJ C 181, 21.6.2012, p. 183; OJ C 225, 25.7.2012, p.20.

² Doc. 10415/12 PECHE 192 CODEC 1445.

³ Doc. 13616/12 CODEC 2093 PECHE 334 PE 390.

⁴ Doc. 6457/13 PECHE 59 CODEC 341.

⁵ Docs. 7160/13 PECHE 82 CODEC 496 and 6457/2/13 REV 2 PECHE 59 CODEC 341.

⁶ Doc. 7959/13 PECHE 120 CODEC 681.

11. It was also agreed to do without empowerments to the Commission for delegated acts, thus leaving details to the co-legislators, unless they concern implementing rules under Article 291 TFEU. The Commission reserved its position concerning the need for delegated acts on the content of production and marketing plans of producer organisations.
 12. The Commission reserved its position concerning the need for mandatory information to consumers on the catch date, and concerning more detailed information to the consumer on preserved products.
 13. Further technical meetings will be needed before the Regulation can be prepared for political agreement.
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