



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 4 June 2013**

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**ADDENDUM TO THE "I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from :	General Secretariat of the Council
to :	COREPER / COUNCIL

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Subject :      Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels  
                    **(first reading)**  
                    - Adoption of the legislative act **(LA + S)**  
                    = Statement  
                    **COMMON GUIDELINES**  
                    **Consultation deadline for Croatia: 3.6.2013**

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**Joint Declaration of Spain and Portugal**

Portugal and Spain deeply regret the adoption of the amended Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council for a fin-attached policy, abandoning the current fin-to-carass weight regime foreseen in the Council Regulation (EC) 1185/2003. Portuguese and Spanish operators are not involved in "finning" practices and there is no risk of sustainability associated with the surface sharks they catch.

The amended regulation will severely damage the economic viability of the Union long line fleet, preventing or hampering the activity of dozens of vessels with the consequent loss of jobs. Moreover, this modification will not solve the practice of finning by Third Country fleets that accounts for 93% of world shark catches, being such regrettable practices completely unaffected by this legislation and continue damaging the sustainability of these fisheries.

PT and ES insist that the EU delegations to the relevant RFMOs continue to demand the introduction of a finning ban so that effective practice of finning will no longer be performed at a global level.

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