



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 June 2013**

**11650/13**

**PECHE 284**

**“I/A” ITEM NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council

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No. Cion prop.: 10976/13 PECHE 259 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED - COM(2013) 406  
final

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Subject: Council Decision to authorise the opening of negotiations on behalf of the  
European Union for a Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Protocol with the  
Cook Islands  
- Adoption

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1. On 11 June 2013, the Commission submitted a recommendation to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations with the Cook Islands for a Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Protocol.
2. The Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy examined the recommendation during its meetings of 14<sup>1</sup> and 21 June 2013. The French, Netherlands and Danish delegations entered parliamentary scrutiny reserves. The United Kingdom, Swedish and Netherlands delegations questioned the level of resources exploitation in the waters of the Cook Islands, and the United Kingdom delegation was also concerned about the economic viability of the envisaged agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. doc. 11100/13.

3. The Commission submitted a working paper which summarises scientific knowledge of the status of the relevant tuna stocks.<sup>2</sup> It reaffirmed that the information on the stock status sufficiently indicated the existence of surpluses in the Cook Islands' waters, and that discussions on the overall exploitation levels and the economic attraction of the licences should be part of the negotiations with the country. It also recalled that important tuna conservation measures adopted in WCPFC, the responsible regional fisheries management organisation, were the result of Union initiatives, and that a reinforced presence of Union vessels in that area would strengthen the Union's position within this organisation.
4. The Working Party agreed on a draft mandate for the opening of negotiations, including negotiation directives, as contained in document ST 11657 13 PECHE 285.
5. Under these circumstances, the Committee of Permanent Representatives could confirm the agreement reached at the level of the Working Party and suggests that Council, at one of its forthcoming sessions:
  - adopt the Decision on opening negotiations and adopt the negotiation directives as set out in doc. ST 11657/13 PECHE 285;
  - decide not to publish the Decision in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of its Rules of Procedure.
  - note that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and therefore a paper copy of the Decision including the negotiating directives will be transmitted to the Parliament.

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<sup>2</sup> Cf. doc. 11427/13.