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REPORT

From: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
To: Council

No. Cion prop.: 8883/13 PECHE 174 CODEC 912 CADREFIN 92 FC 16 - COM(2013) 245 final
Subject: Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund [repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 and Council Regulation(EC) No 861/2006 and Council Regulation No XXX/2011 on integrated maritime policy
- *General Approach*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 2 December 2011, the European Commission adopted its initial proposal for a new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). This proposal was officially presented to the Council during the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 15-16 December 2011.
2. The EMFF proposal must be seen in the context of the Commission's proposal for a multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020 as well as the package for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which is designed to lay down the legislative framework for the same period. The general objective of the EMFF is to support the implementation of the CFP and to further develop the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

The common procedural provisions are laid down in a proposal for a horizontal Regulation¹.

The European Commission proposes that most of the current CFP and IMP instruments are integrated into one fund, with the exception of Fisheries Partnership Agreements and the compulsory contribution to regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

3. Between January and July of the 2012 year, the Working Party on Internal and External Fishery Policy undertook a reading of the proposal. A summary of specific comments made by delegations during this process is set out in an annotated version of the proposal².
4. Following a Council debate in May 2012, the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council took in June 2012 note of a progress report³ which set out the main outstanding issues in the Fisheries section.
5. A third orientation debate at the level of the Council was held in September 2012.
6. During this time, the Working Party on Internal and External Fishery Policy undertook very detailed examinations of draft amendments proposed by the Presidency. This enabled the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council in October 2012 to reach a partial general approach on the EMFF⁴ regarding Articles 1-95 and Annexes I and III. Questions on administrative rules were left aside, primarily due to lack of time and still on-going discussions in the horizontal Regulation. No in-depth discussions took place in relation to recitals, definitions and the choice and formulation of the Commission powers to adopt delegated or implementing acts.

¹ Cf. doc. 15243/11 FSTR 49 FC 39 REGIO 83 SOC 859 AGRISTR 56 PECHE 279 CADREFIN 87 CODEC 1632

² Cf. doc. 9069/3/12 PECHE 128 CADREFIN 208 CODEC 1058 REV 3

³ Cf. doc. 10276/1/12 REV 1 PECHE 180 CADREFIN 265 CODEC 1407

⁴ Cf. doc. 15458/12 PECHE 428 CADREFIN 438 CODEC 2485

7. In response to continued calls by many Member States during the orientation debates and during the deliberations for a partial general approach to simplify the delivery system and to align this with the system for structural funds instead of rural development⁵, the European Commission submitted on 23 April 2013 its amended proposal for a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund whereby it proposed the requested alignment.
8. The European Parliament's first reading position is expected during the Autumn of 2013 following a vote in the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee on 10 July 2013.
9. The European Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion on the amended proposal on 22 May 2013. The Committee of the Regions has not yet issued an opinion.

II. PREPARATIONS TOWARDS A GENERAL APPROACH

10. In parallel to work on the proposed Regulations on the Common Fisheries Policy and Market Organisation, the Working Party on Internal and External Fishery Policy examined the amended delivery system aligned with the system for the structural funds. Following political agreement on the said Regulations, the Working Party has worked intensively on improvements to the proposed delivery system as well as issues left open in the October 2012 partial general approach.
11. On the basis of results of the Working Party discussions, the Presidency submitted a compromise text⁶ to COREPER on 10 July 2013.

⁵ Cf. for instance, doc. 13824/12 (Joint Position of Austria, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain). The informal meeting of Fisheries Directors-General in September 2012 in Cyprus also discussed the delivery system.

⁶ Cf. doc. 10325/2/13 REV2 PECHE 234 CODEC 1284 CADREFIN 128 FC 26 + COR1

12. The discussions at the level of COREPER showed very broad support for the proposed wording of all Articles in the Presidency compromise with the exception of Articles 15-17 and Article 101.

 13. The Council is hence invited to discuss Articles 15-17 and Article 101 as set out in doc. 10325/3/13 REV 3 with a view to reaching a general approach on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.
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