



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 1 October 2013
(OR. en)**

**13614/1/13
REV 1**

PECHE 375

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.: 12146/13 PECHE 317 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED - COM(2013) 514
final

Subject: Council Decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for a new Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe
- Adoption

1. On 9 July 2013 the Commission submitted a recommendation to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations between the European Union and the Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe for a new Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement. The current protocol will expire on 12 May 2014. The Commission services wish to open negotiations in mid-October this year.
2. The Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy examined the recommendation during its meeting on 5 and 12 September 2013. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom delegations highlighted that a series of negative points had been noted in the evaluation report.

Subsequently, the Netherlands delegation has stated its intention to vote against and to enter a statement in the minutes of the Council. The United Kingdom delegation will abstain.

3. The Working Party agreed on a draft mandate for the opening of negotiations, including negotiating directives, as contained in doc. ST 13624/13 PECHE 377.
4. 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 to adopt the negotiation directives as set out in doc. ST 13624/13 PECHE 377;
 - 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;
 - enter the statements in the Addendum to this note in the minutes of the Council.
