



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 16 February 2012

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ADDENDUM TO “I/A” ITEM NOTE

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

No. Cion prop.: 15110/11 PECHE 270 - COM(2011) 603 final

Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Protocol agreed between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two parties currently in force
- Adoption of Council Decision

Delegations will find below a statement by the Netherlands delegation be included in the minutes of the Council.

Unilateral declaration of the Netherlands

The Netherlands will abstain from voting on the decision with regard to the one year prolongation of the Protocol between the EU and Guinea Bissau.

The local population of Guinea Bissau highly depends on small scale fisheries for their food security. The important role of small scale fisheries in the local food supply should be safeguarded. The Netherlands values that the existing capacity levels in the Protocol and the composition and activities of the EU fleet do not interfere with the small scale local fisheries sector and will therefore not vote against this one year prolongation.

However, we feel that the Government of Guinea Bissau should be aware that industrial fishing by non-EU vessels on the continental shelf of Guinea Bissau could interfere with the interest of the small scale fisheries sector. The Netherlands considers it important to signal to the Guinea Bissau authorities that there should be no access of industrial vessels to the continental shelf of Guinea Bissau and will therefore abstain.