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NOTE

From: General Secretariat
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

No. Cion prop.: 17870/11 PECHE 368 CADREFIN 162 CODEC 2255 - COM(2011) 804 final

Subject: 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
- *Orientation debate*

1. On 2 December 2011, the European Commission adopted a 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.

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

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

The EMFF is proposed to be structured around 4 pillars:

- Smart green fisheries (shared management);
- Smart Green Aquaculture (shared management);
- Sustainable and Inclusive Territorial Development (shared management); and
- Integrated Maritime Policy (direct centralised management).

In addition to these four pillars, the EMFF will include accompanying measures in the areas of data collection and scientific advice, control, governance, fisheries markets (including outermost regions), voluntary payments to RFMOs and technical assistance.

3. Since the beginning of January this year, the Working Party on Internal and External Fishery Policy has dedicated a lot of time to undertaking a first reading of the proposal. The process has been completed as regards the fisheries part (Articles 1-92); the reading of the entire proposal is now almost completed.

A first orientation debate took place in the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 19 March 2012 on the basis of three questions focussing on: EMFF key priorities, how the fund can, among other, foster innovation and selectivity and optimal use of EMFF resources.

4. However, the Presidency feels that a second orientation debate in the Council will be useful at this juncture in order to further steer and accelerate the work of its preparatory bodies on the proposal in view of the Presidency's objective of reaching a partial general approach on the fisheries part of the proposal during the June 2012 "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council. Therefore the Presidency wishes the Council to hold an orientation debate around the following questions:

1. Does your delegation consider that the envisaged allocations in Article 15(2) to (6) (shared management) and Article 16 (direct management) of the proposal are sufficiently balanced to enable the EMFF to support the implementation of the reform objectives of the CFP? If not, how should the allocations in Articles 15 and 16 be rebalanced?

 2. Does your delegation consider that the allocation criteria in Article 17 are pertinent and sufficiently precise to allow for an equitable distribution among Member States?
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