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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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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*

Since the beginning of January this year, the Working Party on Internal and External Fishery Policy has dedicated a lot of time to the first reading of the proposal. The process has now been completed, and a Presidency compromise text is now under examination with a view to facilitating a partial general approach at the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council in October this year.

During the two orientation debates held by the Ministers in March and May:

- a) Many questions were raised in relation to the proposed allocation under direct management and the Commission was invited to clarify the reasons for proposing such an allocation. In particular, several delegations have requested a detailed breakdown of the proposed allocation for IMP with some delegations expressing concern that the overall figure is too high.

- b) Many delegations have expressed the view that the EMFF is very limited in the scope of support and is not in line with the objectives of the CFP, requesting to include additional restructuring measures, such as decommissioning of vessels and temporary cessations of fishing activities and investments on board fishing vessels.

The Presidency feels that a third orientation debate in the Council will be useful at this point in time in order to steer and accelerate the work of its preparatory bodies on the proposal. Therefore the Presidency wishes the Council to hold an orientation debate with focus on the following questions:

- 1) As the main EU financial instrument in support of the reform of the CFP, does the funding for the priorities of the EMFF ensure the highest possible return on EU funds?
- 2) To what extent would greater flexibility be needed in the transfers between the different headings within shared management, while ensuring that there are minimum levels of funding for data collection and control?
- 3) Should any additional measures be considered with a view to promoting sustainable and resource efficient fisheries (e.g. cost effective decommissioning of vessels, temporary cessations of fishing activities, investments on board and engine replacement without increasing fishing capacity)? If so, what should be the scope and associated conditions for the implementation of such measures?