



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 24 September 2012**

**14096/12**

**PECHE 361**

**NOTE**

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from: Latvian delegation  
to: Council

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Subject: Fisheries Protocol EU/ Mauritania  
Outcome of 7<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations EU/Mauritania - State of play  
- Information from the Latvian delegation

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Delegations will find attached a note submitted by the Latvian delegation related to the agenda point on "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 24-25 September 2012.

**Fisheries Protocol EU/Mauritania**  
**Outcome of 7<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations EU/Mauritania - State of play**  
**Information from the Latvian delegation**

*In relation to the information from the Spanish delegation on the Outcome of 7<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations EU/Mauritania - State of play (13663/12)*

Latvia underlines the importance of the Fisheries Partnership Agreements, their stability and continuity and the necessity to defend a sustainable and competitive EU fisheries industry and supports the Spanish delegation for raising this issue at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

After seven rounds of negotiations, the Commission reached a draft agreement with Mauritania on the Fisheries Protocol despite the general opposition of Member States on the content of the document.

Latvia considers that in some fleet segments it will be impossible to get any benefit from the contribution paid for fishing possibilities by the EU, considering it as a waste of money.

Latvia is concerned on the technical provisions imposed by the agreement on the EU fleet that will negatively influence the profitability of the EU fleet.

In addition to the Spanish raised objections Latvia would like to draw the attention to the issues particularly related to the pelagic fleet operating in the Mauritanian waters. This part of the EU fleet will be unprofitable due to the technical provisions set out in the Protocol regarding the fishing zone for operations of these vessels.

Due to the higher costs of licenses, obligatory donations, recruitment of Mauritanian nationals to the EU vessels set out in the Protocol, the profit of the Protocol becomes inadequate.

Taking into account the above mentioned arguments Latvia shares the opinion of Spain that the Protocol can still be improved so as to ensure the viability of the EU fleet and sustainability of fisheries.