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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	11320/16 PECHE 280 + ADD 1 - COM(2016) 459 final + Annex
Subject:	COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending Implementing Decision 2014/170/EU to remove the Republic of Guinea from the list of non-cooperating third countries in fighting IUU fishing *- Adoption*

1.   The European Commission submitted the above proposal on 13 July 2016 to the Council.

2.   It aims at amending Council Implementing Decision 2014/170/EU of 24 March 2014[1] establishing a list of non-cooperating third countries in fighting IUU fishing pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, by removing the Republic of Guinea from that list.

3.   The Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy discussed the proposal on 2 September 2016. As put forward by the Commission representative, the removal of the Republic of Guinea from the list of non-cooperating third countries in the fight against IUU fishing is justified by the improvements in that country's fisheries policy. The improvements concern the regulatory field as well as the restructuring and reinforcement of the fisheries administration, the provision of means of control and enforcement, the control strategy and related sanctions for infringements, and increased transparency in vessel registration.

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[1]   OJ L 91, 27.3.2014, p. 43.

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4.   <u>Delegations</u> generally welcomed the Proposal and related analysis, emphasizing the need for close cooperation between the European Commission and Member State delegations in order to prepare for a successful removal procedure.

5.   Following this discussion, <u>the Permanent Representatives Committee</u> is invited to suggest that <u>Council</u> adopts the Decision to remove the Republic of Guinea from the list of non-cooperating third countries, as set out in document 11831/16 PECHE 298 (lawyer-linguists' document).

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