



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 21 October 2016  
(OR. en)

13433/16  
ADD 1 REV 1

PV/CONS 53

## DRAFT MINUTES

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Subject: **3494th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**General Affairs**),  
held in Luxembourg on 18 October 2016

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## PUBLIC DELIBERATION ITEMS<sup>1</sup>

Page

### "A" ITEMS (13224/16 PTS A 81)

1. Amendments of the European Parliament to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2017 ..... 3
2. Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks in the North-East Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the North-East Atlantic and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002 [First reading] ..... 3

### "B" ITEMS (13243/16 OJ CONS 52)

3. Mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework ..... 4

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<sup>1</sup> Deliberations on Union legislative acts (Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union), other deliberations open to the public and public debates (Article 8 of the Council's Rules of Procedure).

## **LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS**

*(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)*

### **"A" ITEMS**

#### **1. Amendments of the European Parliament to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2017**

12983/1/16 REV 1 FIN 627 INST 402 PE-L 57  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 12.10.2016

The Council, with the UK Delegation abstaining, confirmed that it cannot approve all amendments to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2017 should they be adopted by the European Parliament and approved a draft letter to the European Parliament to that effect.

#### **2. Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks in the North-East Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the North-East Atlantic and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002 [First reading]**

= Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

12857/16 CODEC 1376 PECHE 351

+ ADD 1

11625/16 PECHE 292 CODEC 1139

+ ADD 1

+ COR 1 (de)

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 12.10.2016

The Council approved its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and the statement of the Council's reasons, with the ES Delegation voting against. (Legal basis: Article 43(2) TFEU).

#### **Statement by Spain**

"The proposal for access to deep-sea species is of great interest to the Kingdom of Spain, which has followed it particularly closely in recent years and is strongly committed to it, to the point that it will accept compromises for the sake of reaching a balanced agreement that will satisfy all parties, such as limiting fishing activity with bottom trawls below 800 metres in European Union waters and an own system of sanctions or of data collection, as well as an authorisation regime that will lead to a disproportionate administrative workload.

Spain has been flexible, even accepting, as indicated, redundant management systems, but a situation has been arrived at as regards observer coverage which Spain cannot agree with, since the impact which this compromise would involve will cause problems in terms of security, economic costs and the operability of the fleet, since it envisages 20% observer coverage for targeted fishing, which is not covered by the mandate the Council gave to the Presidency, which was for 15%.

The Kingdom of Spain's commitment to protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems is beyond question. Spain has been working for years on mapping sea beds in order inter alia to achieve better and greater protection of ecosystems and the environment. The human and material investment made has been enormous, but has always been seen as an investment in sustainability. However, this compromise has disproportionate costs, does not comply with the principle of proportionality and its added value is not clear.

For all these reasons, the Kingdom of Spain is voting against this proposal."

### 3. **Mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework**

= State of play

13162/16 CADREFIN 86 POLGEN 120 FIN 640

13163/16 CADREFIN 87 POLGEN 121 FIN 641

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of the questions in the Presidency report.

Based on the guidance received, the Presidency will table a first compromise proposal in an upcoming Coreper meeting.

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