



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 February 2014  
(OR. en)**

**6049/14  
ADD 1 REV 1**

**PECHE 47**

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Recommendation for a Council Decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Mauritania  
*- Adoption of Council Decision*

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**Statement by the Commission**

The Commission does not consider it necessary that a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations indicates a substantive legal basis.

## **Statement by the Netherlands**

The Netherlands votes in favour of the proposal for a Council decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The Netherlands will assess the outcome of these negotiations on sustainability and the economic return for the European Union. Furthermore, the Netherlands urges the Commission to resolve an omission in the current protocol. According to international law, it is the exclusive competence of a flag state to determine labour conditions, training and certification of fishermen on vessels flying its flag. A new protocol should enable flag states to fulfil their international obligations concerning safety on board, including when employing Mauritanian seamen. The Netherlands will assess whether the proposal for a new protocol meets this important requirement.

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