



Brussels, 23 January 2017
(OR. en)

5527/17

PECHE 28

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol with the Republic of Ghana
- *Adoption of the Council Decision*

1. The European Commission submitted the above recommendation to the Council on 5 January 2017.¹
2. The Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy examined the recommendation during its meeting on 19 January 2017 and reached an agreement on the text², while adding a substantive legal base (Art 43 TFEU). NL entered a Parliamentary scrutiny reservation.
3. Consequently, COREPER is invited to confirm the agreement reached on the level of the Working Party and suggest that the Council, at a forthcoming session:
 - adopts the Decision on opening negotiations and adopts the negotiating directives as set out in doc. 5526/17 PECHE 27;

¹ The ex-ante evaluation of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Ghana was received on 19 September 2016 (cf. doc. 12250/16 PECHE 323).

² Cf. doc. 5122/17 PECHE 9.

- decides not to publish the Decision in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of its Rules of Procedure;
 - notes that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and therefore a paper copy of the Decision including the negotiating directives will be transmitted to the Parliament; and
 - enters the statements in the Addendum to this note in the minutes of the Council.
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