



Council of the
European Union

130059/EU XXV.GP
Eingelangt am 24/01/17

EN

15414/16

(OR. en)

PRESSE 68
PR CO 67

OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3509th Council meeting

Agriculture and Fisheries

Brussels, 12 and 13 December 2016

President **Gabriela Matečná**
Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of
Slovakia

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press>

15414/16

1
EN

CONTENTS¹**ITEMS DEBATED**

AGRICULTURE	4
Strengthening farmers' position in the supply chain and tackling unfair trading practices	4
Organic production and labelling of organic products.....	5
Agriculture and climate change: effort sharing and LULUCF proposals.....	6
Any other business	8
– Agricultural and forestry aspects of the Commission's winter package	8
– Regional symposium on agroecology for sustainable agriculture and food systems in Europe and Central Asia, Budapest, 23-25 November 2016.....	8
– Agricultural and rural development and migration in the Mediterranean region	9
– EU platform on food losses and food waste	9
– Protective measures against plant pests.....	10
– Plant breeders' rights	10
– Acceleration of sustainable plant protection.....	11
FISHERIES.....	12
2017 fishing opportunities in the North East Atlantic	12

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED*FISHERIES*

– Deep-sea fishing: Council adopts regulation on 2017-18 TACs and quotas	39
– Fishing opportunities for the Black Sea in 2017	39

- ¹
- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 - Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
 - Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Relations with Georgia 40

TRADE

- Relations with Moldova 40

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

- Money laundering and terrorist financing 41

BUDGETS

- Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Spain 41

SOCIAL POLICY

- Statistics on income and living conditions 42
- Statistics on population and housing censuses 42

ITEMS DEBATED

AGRICULTURE

Strengthening farmers' position in the supply chain and tackling unfair trading practices

The Council adopted conclusions on 'Strengthening farmers' position in the supply chain and tackling unfair trading practices' ([15508/16](#)).

In the conclusions the Council acknowledges the importance of a well-functioning food supply chain and expresses concern about the vulnerability of farmers in this context, despite multiple efforts to improve their situation. The conclusions suggest solutions that the Commission and member states could put in place to guarantee, inter alia, that risks are shared more equally along the supply chain, contractualisation is enhanced, and market transparency and risk management improved.

The Council underlined the importance of a level-playing field for all those involved in the supply chain, which could be achieved by a common European legislative framework.

The conclusions also call on the Commission to undertake an impact assessment with a view to proposing an EU legislative framework or other non-legislative measures to address unfair trading practices. Any initiative should respect the principle of subsidiarity and safeguard well-functioning national systems.

These conclusions build upon the momentum which this topic has gathered in the work of the Council, the European Parliament, and the Agricultural Markets Task Force, which recently published its recommendations in its report entitled '[Enhancing the position of farmers in the supply chain](#)'.

Organic production and labelling of organic products

Ministers took note of the state of play of the proposed regulation on organic production, with regard to the negotiations with the European Parliament ([15105/16](#)). In particular, the presidency informed the Council that despite the considerable progress made in the most recent trilogues, no final agreement could be reached before the end of the year. This was due to the impossibility of finding compromise solutions on the following issues: greenhouses, derogations/collection of data and ending of derogations, seeds, and plant protection products (pesticides).

Delegations acknowledged the good progress made under the Slovak presidency and generally expressed a willingness to continue negotiations with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement with the European Parliament and improving the current legislation to the benefit of organic producers and consumers. Ministers also took the opportunity to restate their positions on the outstanding issues.

The presidency welcomed the Commission's intention not to withdraw the proposal and concluded that a period of reflection was needed to consider further work on this file. Work will be resumed in 2017.

The proposal on organic production and the labelling of organic products, presented by the Commission in March 2014, is aimed at revising the existing legislation on organic production and the labelling of organic products so as to remove obstacles to the sustainable development of organic production in the EU. Its objectives are also to guarantee fair competition for farmers and operators, prevent fraud and unfair practices and improve consumer confidence in organic products. The Commission proposed strengthening the rules on the control system, the trade regime, animal welfare practices and non-authorised substances.

The Council reached a general approach on the organic regulation on 16 June 2015 and the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI) voted on its report on 13 October 2015. Negotiations started in November 2015 and so far 14 trilogues have taken place.

Agriculture and climate change: effort sharing and LULUCF proposals

The Council held an exchange of views on the agricultural aspects of the Commission proposals for an effort-sharing regulation (ESR) and a regulation on land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), based on the Presidency note (14970/16). Those pieces of legislation, together with the revision of the emission trading system (ETS), aim to deliver on the EU's commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change. They are therefore intended to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

Ministers focused their contributions in particular on the multiple objectives of the agriculture and land use sector and on the flexibility proposed in the ESR and LULUCF regulations.

Delegations generally agreed that agriculture can be part of the solution in combating climate change. They were of the view that, in the case of these legislative proposals, the Commission had generally followed the guidance given in the European Council conclusions of October 2014, which recognise the importance of agriculture in terms of its limited mitigation potential. However, they stressed the importance of ensuring coherence between food security and the climate objectives and targets set in the Paris agreement. In particular, targets should be achieved in a way that does not jeopardise the development of sustainable food production. Several delegations expressed misgivings about the insufficient level of flexibility between the ESR and the LULUCF, suggesting that account should be taken of the sustainable management of forests, while others took the view that further flexibility was not needed.

The presidency will summarise the outcome of the discussion in a letter addressed to the chair of the Environment Council.

The [effort sharing regulation](#) addresses emissions from the sectors not covered by the EU ETS. Those sectors include buildings, agriculture (non-CO₂ emissions), waste management and transport, which accounted for almost 60% of total EU emissions in 2014. The regulation sets annual emission reduction targets based on relative GDP per capita for each member state for the period 2021–2030. Member states will be able to decide what measures to take in order to achieve the targets.

The [proposed LULUCF](#) regulation defines the role of the sectors linked to the use of soil (landuse, land-use change and forestry) in greenhouse gas emission reductions. Those sectors are linked to the use of soils, trees, plants, biomass and timber. Their particularity is that they not only emit greenhouse gases but can also remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. The proposal requires that member states ensure that accounted greenhouse gas emissions and removals remain in balance and that the overall LULUCF sector does not generate net emissions (the 'no-debit rule'). Several types of flexibility are included to help Member States ensure compliance with that rule. The proposal also introduces a new EU governance process for monitoring forest management reference levels.

Although the Environment Council is leading the legislative process, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council held an initial exchange of views on climate-smart agriculture on 22 October 2015 and a second exchange of views on agriculture and climate on 17 May 2016.

Any other business**– *Agricultural and forestry aspects of the Commission's winter package***

At the request of the Austrian delegation and with the support of the Polish delegation, the Council was briefed on and discussed the agricultural and forestry aspects of the 'Winter Package', which was presented by the Commission in connection with the implementation of the European Energy Union on 30 November 2016.

The discussion focused in particular on the constraints that this proposed package would create for agriculture and forestry in relation to biomass production and to the proposed reduction in the use of conventional biofuels, i.e. biofuels based on agricultural biomass.

– *Regional symposium on agroecology for sustainable agriculture and food systems in Europe and Central Asia, Budapest 23-25 November 2016*

The Hungarian delegation informed the Council of the outcome of the above-mentioned event, which was co-organised by the FAO and Hungary, and financed with the support of the French Government.

The aim of the meeting was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among the various stakeholders on the potential contribution of agroecology to sustainable agriculture, to identify potential entry points and areas of contribution of agroecology in public policies, to showcase existing best practices in the region and to foster international cooperation.

The outcome of the symposium was a series of recommendations grouped around four themes:

- Agroecology and sustainable food systems
- Agroecology and natural resources in a changing climate: water, land, biodiversity and territories
- Research, innovation, knowledge sharing and agroecological movements
- Public policies to develop agroecology and promote transition

– *Agricultural and rural development and migration in the Mediterranean region*

The French delegation, on behalf of France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain, presented the results of the meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the 13 member states of CIHEAM, which had taken place in Tirana on 22 September 2016. CIHEAM is the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, a Mediterranean intergovernmental organisation which works towards improving sustainable agriculture and fisheries, ensuring food and nutrition security and developing rural and coastal territories.

The main issue discussed at the Tirana meeting was migration (internal and international) from the perspective of agricultural development, food security, land policy, the development and inclusion of rural territories and climate change. The focus was on how to provide long-term solutions through cooperation, training and research.

– *EU platform on food losses and food waste*

The Commission informed ministers of the state of play of the creation of the EU platform on food losses and food waste.

The platform had been established as part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, and spearheads EU efforts to fight food waste from farm to fork. It brings together both public and private interests, 70 organisations in total, to foster cooperation amongst all key players in the food value chain and help accelerate the EU's progress towards meeting the global Sustainable Development Goal of halving food waste by 2030.

The first meeting of the platform took place on 29 November 2016. On that occasion the Commission called on member states to implement national food waste prevention programmes and set targets to achieve food waste reduction in cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders by 2019. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2017.

In 2017, the Commission intends to adopt guidelines to facilitate the donation of safe, edible food, and to work towards the creation of a methodology to measure food waste consistently across the EU.

Ministers welcomed the work which had been achieved and the initiatives which had been implemented ahead of the platform, and restated their commitment to minimising food waste and food losses.

– *Protective measures against plant pests*

The Commission reported on the implementation of the new regulation on protective measures against plant pests. It focused in particular on the expected workload and extra resources needed to adopt and implement all the necessary measures, and on the respective roles of the Commission, member states and professional operators.

The [regulation on protective measures against plant pests](#) was adopted on 26 October 2016, entered into force on 13 December 2016 and will apply as of December 2019, after a three-year transitional period.

Delegations welcomed the work carried out by the Commission in preparation for the regulation's entry into application. Some highlighted the importance of ensuring, through effective border controls, that products originating from third countries comply with the EU's high plant health standards, while others highlighted the key role of emergency preparedness and reaction.

– *Plant breeders' rights*

The presidency informed ministers about a Commission explanatory notice clarifying certain articles of directive 98/44 on the protection of biotechnical inventions. The Commission notice seeks to clarify the demarcation line between patentable biotechnological inventions and plant varieties obtained through conventional breeding, for which a separate system of protection exists, which includes the 'plant breeders' privilege'.

The notice, published on 8 November and presented at the Competitiveness Council on 28-29 November, states that the EU legislator's intention when adopting Directive 98/44/EC was to exclude from patentability products created through essentially biological processes. It comes in response to recent decisions of the European Patent Office on the patentability of plant material obtained through conventional breeding methods, and the impact of those decisions on plant breeders' rights.

The breeders' exemption in the Community plant variety rights system enables breeders to use any plant variety, whether or not protected by a Community plant variety right or not, for the creation of new varieties.

Several ministers agreed on the importance of plant breeders' rights to promote innovation in agriculture, and welcomed the work of the Commission in clarifying their relationship with patents.

The Council had already had an opportunity in June 2016 to be informed of the outcome of a conference organised by the presidency in Brussels on the debate surrounding patents and plant breeders' rights.

– *Acceleration of sustainable plant protection*

The presidency updated the Council on the implementation of the plan to accelerate sustainable plant protection.

On 28 June 2016 the Council endorsed the implementation plan prepared by the expert group, which identifies measures to be taken by member states, the Commission and stakeholders with the aim of increasing the availability of low-risk plant protection products and speeding up the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the EU.

The presidency explained that work was progressing satisfactorily, as member states, the Commission, EFSA and stakeholders had begun implementing the measures identified. Several member states were in fact using that implementation plan to reinforce and further develop national initiatives. The presidency also said that coordination between the different authorities, knowledge-sharing among member states and the raising of awareness of the importance of expanding the farmer's toolbox with sustainable plant protection options were all important elements of that plan.

FISHERIES

2017 fishing opportunities in the North East Atlantic

The Council reached a political agreement on a regulation concerning the 2017 catch limits for the main commercial fish stocks in the Atlantic, the North Sea and international fisheries in which EU vessels participate.

The agreement was based on the objective of achieving maximum sustainable yields (MSYs) by 2017 where possible, and by 2020 at the latest, while taking into account specific and fully justified socio-economic circumstances.

Thanks to the Council decision, the number of fish stocks managed at MSY levels will increase next year to 44 and the positive trend as regards stocks within safe biological limits will be strengthened. The agreement also tackles the question of choke species in mixed fisheries by providing elements of flexibility.

The Council agreement largely confirmed the initial Commission proposal ([13797/16](#) + [ADD 1](#) + [ADD 2](#)). This establishes fishing opportunities in the form of annually total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas by fish stocks in the different fishing zones. It concerns stocks that the Union manages either autonomously or jointly with third countries, for instance with Norway in the North Sea and the Skagerrak, or through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

The proposal was based on the scientific advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), which delivered its most recent annual advice on 30 June 2016.

The EU's ultimate objective is to bring the stocks to levels that can deliver MSY. This objective is one of the pillars of the reformed CFP, which requires that the MSY objective shall be achieved at the latest by 2020 for all stocks.

The CFP regulation also introduced the landing obligation which is progressively applicable from the beginning of 2015 to 2019. This means that fish that in the past would have been discarded have to be landed. As the landing obligation, which is already in place for certain demersal fisheries in the North Sea, North-Western and South-Western Atlantic waters, will be extended further in 2017, the Commission proposed to compensate for this with the 'TAC top-ups' for certain fish stocks.

Under article 43(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), it is for the Council to adopt measures on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities within the framework of the common fisheries policy. The European Parliament's participation and the Economic and Social Committee's opinion are therefore not required for the adoption of this regulation.

The regulation will be adopted by Council in written procedure, following finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts.

The following table sets out the indicative values of the main TACs for 2017 compared to those for 2016 and the Commission proposal.

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Sandeel	Norwegian waters of IV	0	pm		pm		
Sandeel	Union waters of IIa, IIIa and IV(1)	79219	pm		pm		
Greater silver smelt	Union and international waters of I and II	90	90	0%	90	0%	
Greater silver smelt	Union waters of III and IV	1028	1028	0%	1028	0%	
Greater silver smelt	Union and international waters of V, VI and VII	4316	3453	-20%	3884	-10%	
Tusk	Union and international waters of I, II and XIV	21	21	0%	21	0%	
Tusk	IIIa; Union waters of Subdivisions 22-32	29	29	0%	29	0%	
Tusk	Union waters of IV	235	235	0%	235	0%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Tusk	Union and international waters of V, VI and VII	937	937	0%	937	0%	
Tusk	Norwegian waters of IV	170	170	0%	170	0%	
Boarfish	Union and international waters of VI, VII and VIII	42637	27288	-36%	27288	-36%	
Herring	IIIa (directed)	43671	43973	0,7%	43973	0,7%	
Herring	Union and Norwegian waters of IV north of 53° 30' N	310945	288765	-7,1%	288765	-7,1%	
Herring	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	1184	1151	-2,8%	1151	-2,8%	
Herring	IIIa (by-catches)	6659	6659	0%	6659	0%	
Herring	IV, VIId and Union waters of IIa	13162	11375	-13,6%	11375	-13,6%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Herring	IVc, VIId (directed fishery)	57007	52977	-7,1%	52977	-7,1%
Herring	Union and international waters of Vb, VIb and VIaN(1)	4170	3480	-16,5%	4170	0%
Herring	VIa (S), VIIf, VIIfc	1630	1360	-16,6%	1630	0%
<i>Herring</i>	<i>VI Clyde(I)</i>	To be established	To be established			
Herring	VIIa(1)	4575	4127	-9,8%	4127	-9,8%
Herring	VIIe and VIIf	930	930	0%	930	0%
Herring	VIIg(1), VIIh(1), VIIj(1) and VIIk(1)	15442	14467	-6,3%	14467	-6,3%
Anchovy	VIII	33000			33000	0%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Anchovy	IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	15000	10622	-29,2%	12500	-16,7% compared to revised TAC 2016	
Cod	Skagerrak	4651	5558	19,5%	5558	19,5%	
Cod	Kattegat	370	370	0%	525	41,9%	
Cod	IV; Union waters of IIa; that part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and Kattegat	27930	32553	16,6%	32553	16,6%	
Cod	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	382	382	0%	382	0%	
Cod	VIb (Rockall); Union and international waters of Vb west of 12° 00' W and of XII and XIV	74	74	0%	74	0%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Cod	VIa; Union and international waters of Vb east of 12° 00' W	0	0	0%	0	0%	
Cod	VIIa	146	0	-100%	146	0%, by-catch only	
Cod	VIIb, VIIc, VIIE-k, VIII, IX and X; Union waters of CEEAF	4565	1447	-68,3%	2830	-38%	
Cod	VIIId	1961	2059	5%	2059	5%	
Megrims	Union waters of IIa and IV	2639	2639	0%	2639	0%	
Megrims	Union and international waters of Vb; VI;	5214	5682	9%	5682	9%	
Megrims	VII	18254	13099	-28,2%	13691	-25%	
Megrims	VIIIabde	1802	1295	-28,1%	1352	-25%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Megrimms	VIIIc, IX and X; Union waters of CEECAF 34.1.1	1363	1013	-25,7%	1159	-15%	
Dab and flounder	Union waters of IIa and IV	18434	18434	0%	18434	0%	
Anglerfish	Union waters of IIa and IV	11267	13521	20%	13521	20%	
Anglerfish	Norwegian waters of IV	1500	1500	0%	1500	0%	
Anglerfish	VI; Union and international waters of Vb; international waters of XII and XIV	6375	7650	20%	7650	20%	
Anglerfish	VII	33516	29534	-11,9%	33516	0%	
Anglerfish	VIIIabde	8980	7914	-11,9%	8980	0%	
Anglerfish	VIIIc,IX,X,CECAF 34.1.1	2569	3955	54%	3955	54%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Haddock	IIIa, Union waters of Subdivisions 22-32	3761	1982	-47,3%	1982	-47,3%
Haddock	IV; Union waters of IIa	47688	26405	-44,6%	26405	-44,6%
Haddock	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	707	707	0%	707	0%
Haddock	Union and international waters of VIb, XII and XIV	3225	4690	45,4%	4690	45,4%
Haddock	Vb, VIa	6462	3182	-50,8%	3317	-48,7% (top-up correction)
Haddock	VIIIb-k, VIII, IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	7258	7751	6,8%	7751	6,8%
Haddock	VIIa	1654	2074	25,4%	2074	25,4%
Whiting	IIIa	1031	1031	0%	1031	0%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Whiting	IV; Union waters of IIa	12610	14703	16,6%	14703	16,6%
Whiting	VI; Union and international waters of Vb; international waters of XII and XIV	213	0	-100%	213	0%, by-catch only
Whiting	VIIa	80	80	0%	80	0%
Whiting	VIIb-k	22778	pm		27500	20,7%
Whiting	VIII	2540	2032	-20%	2540	0%
Whiting and pollack	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	190	190	0%	190	0%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Northern hake - global TAC including all areas	overall northern TACs (IIIa / IIa and IV / Vb, VI, VII, XII and XIV / VIIIabde) <u>SPLIT BY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN ROWS BELOW</u>	108784	119765	10,1%	119765	10,1%
Hake	IIIa, 22-32	2997	3371	12,5%	3371	12,5%
Hake	IIa -and IV	3492	3928	12,5%	3928	12,5%
Hake	VI, VII, Vb	61902	67658	9,3%	67658	9,3%
Hake	VIIIabde	40393	44808	10,9%	44808	10,9%
Hake	VIIIc, IX and X; Union waters of CEECAF 34.1.1	10674	7357	-31,1%	10520	-8,4% (+ top-up of 7,9%)
Blue whiting	Norwegian waters of II and IV	0	220494		220494	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Blue whiting	I to VII, VIIIabde, XII, XIV (EC and International waters)	207657	385254	85,5%	385254	85,5%
Blue whiting	VIIIc IX, X, CECAF 34.1.1 (EC Waters)	29914	51719	72,9%	51719	72,9%
Blue whiting	EU waters of II, Iva, V, VI north of 56°30' N and VII west of 12°W		pm		pm	
Lemon sole and witch	IIa (EC), North Sea (EC)	6391	6391	0%	6391	0%
Blue ling	EC and int waters of Vb, VI, VII	4746	11014	132,1%	11014	132,1%
Blue ling	int waters of XII	446	357	-20%	357	-20%
Blue ling	EU and international waters of II and IV	53	53	0%	53	0%
Blue ling	EU and international waters of III	8	8	0%	8	0%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Ling	EC and intl. Waters of I and II	36	36	0%	36	0%
Ling	IIIa; EC waters of IIIb, IIIc, IIId	87	87	0%	87	0%
Ling	IV(EC)	2912	235	-91,9%	235	-91,9%
Ling	EC and intl. waters of V	33	33	0%	33	0%
Ling	EC and intl waters of VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV	10297	13696	33%	13696	33%
Ling	Norwegian waters of IV	1325	1350	1,9%	1350	1,9%
Norway lobster	IIIa; Union waters of Subdivisions 22-32	11001	12715	15,6%	12715	15,6%
Norway lobster	Union waters of IIa and IV	13700	20034	46,2%	20034	46,2%
Norway lobster	Norwegian waters of IV	1000	1000	0%	1000	0%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Norway lobster	VI; Union and international waters of Vb	16524	16407	-0,7%	16407	-0,7%
Norway lobster	VII	23348	21194	-9,2%	25356	8,6%
<i>Norway lobster</i>	<i>VII - Porcupine Bank special condition</i>	1850	3100	67,6%	3100	67,6%
Norway lobster	VIIIabde	3899	4160	6,7%	4160	6,7%
Norway lobster	VIIIc	48	0	-100%	0	-100%
Norway lobster	IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	320	336	5%	336	5%
Northern prawn	IIIa	5867	7000	19,3%	7000	19,3%
Northern prawn	Union waters of IIa and IV	2446	0	-100%	0	-100%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Northern prawn	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	512	328	-35,9%	328	-35,9%
<i>Penaeus shrimps</i>	<i>French Guyana</i>					
Plaice	Skagerrak	11531	17286	49,9%	17286	49,9%
Plaice	Kattegat	2347	2343	-0,2%	2343	-0,2%
Plaice	IV; Union waters of IIa; that part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and the Kattegat	122494	122494	0%	122494	0%
Plaice	Vb(EC waters), VI, XII, XIV	658	658	0%	658	0%
Plaice	VIIa	1098	1098	0%	1098	0%
Plaice	VIIbc	74	74	0%	74	0%
Plaice	VIIde	12446	10022	-19,5%	10022	-19,5%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Plaice	VIIIfg	420	405	-3,6%	405	-3,6%	
Plaice	VIIhjk	135	108	-20%	128	-5,2%	
Plaice	VIII,IX,X,CECAF 34.1.1	395	395	0%	395	0%	
Pollack	VI; Union and international waters of Vb; international waters of XII and XIV	397	397	0%	397	0%	
Pollack	VII	13495	10801	-20%	12146	-10%	
Pollack	VIIIabde	1482	1186	-20%	1482	0%	
Pollack	VIIIc	231	231	0%	231	0%	
Pollack	IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	282	282	0%	282	0%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Saithe	IIIa and IV; Union waters of IIa, IIIb, IIIc and Subdivisions 22-32	31284	47888	53,1%	47888	53,1%	
Saithe	VI; Union and international waters of Vb, XII and XIV	5948	9894	66,3%	9894	66,3%	
Saithe	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	880	880	0%	880	0%	
Saithe	VII, VIII, IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	3176	3176	0%	3176	0%	
Turbot and brill	Union waters of IIa and IV	4488	4488	0%	4937	10%	
Skates and rays	Union waters of IIa and IV	1313	1378	5%	1378	5%	
Skates and rays	Union waters of IIIa	47	47	0%	47	0%	
Skates and rays	Union waters of VIa, VIb, VIIa-c and VIIe-k	8032	7461	-7,1%	8434	5%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Skates and rays	VIIId	966	966	0%	1063	10%
Skates and rays	Union waters of VIII and IX	3420	3591	5%	3762	10%
Undulate ray	VIIId		14	+20%	19	
Undulate ray	VIIe		120	+20%	161	
Undulate ray	VIII				30	
Undulate ray	IX		40		48	+20%
Greenland halibut	Union waters of IIa and IV; Union and international waters of Vb and VI	1400	1400	0%	1400	0%
Mackerel	IIIa and IV; Union waters of IIa, IIIb, IIIc and Subdivisions 22-32	31241	35286	12,9%	35286	12,9%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Mackerel	VI, VII, VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIc and VIIIe; Union and international waters of Vb; international waters of IIa, XII and XIV	357587	407517	14%	407517	14%	
Mackerel	VIIIc, IX and X; Union waters of CEECAF 34.1.1	40918	46631	14%	46631	14%	
Mackerel	Norwegian waters of IIa and IVa	14043	16004	14%	16004	14%	
Common sole	IIIa; Union waters of Subdivisions 22-32	391	551	40,9%	551	40,9%	
Common sole	Union waters of IIa and IV	13252	15199	14,7%	16123	21,7%	
Common sole	VI; Union and international waters of Vb; international waters of XII and XIV	57	57	0%	57	0%	
Common sole	VIIa	40	0	-100%	40	0%, by-catch	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
						only
Common sole	VIIbc	42	42	0%	42	0%
Common sole	VIII d	3258	2411	-26%	2769	-15%
Common sole	VIIe	979	1178	20,3%	1178	20,3%
Common sole	VIII fg	779	786	0,9%	845	8,5%
Common sole	VII h j k	382	382	0%	382	0%
Common sole	VIII ab	3420	3420	0%	3420	0%
Sole	VIII c, VIII d, VIII e, IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	1072	1072	0%	1072	0%
Sprat	III a	30784	33280	8,1%	33280	8,1%

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Sprat	Union waters of IIa and IV	219500	28620	-87,0%	33830	-84,6%	
Sprat	VIIId	5150	4120	-20%	4120	-20%	
Picked dogfish	Union waters of IIIa	0	0	0%	0	prohibited	
Picked dogfish	Union waters of IIa and IV	0	0	0%	0	prohibited	
Picked dogfish	Union and international waters of I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV	0	0	0%	0	prohibited	
Horse mackerel	Union waters of IVb, IVc and VIIId	11650	14697	26,2%	14697	26,2%	
Horse mackerel	Union waters of IIa, IVa; VI, VIIa-c, VIIe-k, VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIId and VIIId; Union and international waters of Vb; international waters of XII and XIV	107168	58130	-45,8%	82519	-23%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Horse mackerel	VIIIc	17235	9456	-45,1%	13271	-23%	
Horse mackerel	IX	68583	73349	6,9%	73349	6,9%	
<i>Horse mackerel</i>	<i>X, CECAF(Azores)</i>		pm		pm		
<i>Horse mackerel</i>	<i>CECAF(Madeira)</i>		pm		pm		
<i>Horse mackerel</i>	<i>CECAF(Canaries)</i>		pm		pm		
Norway pout	IIIa; Union waters of IIa and IV	129000	141950	10%	141950	10%	
Norway pout	Norwegian waters of IV	0	0	0%	0	0%	
Industrial fish	Norwegian waters of IV	800	800	0%	800	0%	
Other species	Union waters of Vb, VI and VII		pm		pm		
Other species	Norwegian waters of IV	8500	9500	11,8%	9500	11,8%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Other species	Union waters of IIa, IV and VIa north of 56° 30' N		0		0		
Herring	Union, Faroese, Norwegian and international waters of I and II	20629	42059	103,9%	42059	103,9%	
Cod	Norwegian waters of I and II	19900	23002	15,6%	23002	15,6%	
Cod	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and Greenland waters of XIV	2100	2200	4,8%	2200	4,8%	
Cod	I and IIb	33176	33025	-0,5%	33025	-0,5%	
Cod and haddock	Faroese waters of Vb	950	950	0%	950	0%	
Grenadier	Greenland waters of V and XIV	100	0	-100%	0	-100%	
Grenadier	Greenland waters of NAFO 1	100	0	-100%	0	-100%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Capelin	I Ib	0	pm		pm		
Capelin	Greenland waters of V and XIV	0	pm		pm		
Haddock	Norwegian waters of I and II	1247	1200	-3,8%	1200	-3,8%	
Blue whiting	Faroese waters	2500	2500	0%	2500	0%	
Ling and blue ling	Faroese waters of Vb	2100	pm		pm		
Northern prawn	Greenland waters of V and XIV	1375	1150	-16,4%	1150	-16,4%	
Northern prawn	Greenland waters of NAFO 1	2600	pm		pm		
Saithe	Norwegian waters of I and II	2550	2550	0%	2550	0%	
Saithe	International waters of I and II	0	pm		pm		
Saithe	Faroese waters of Vb	3000	pm		pm		

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Greenland halibut	Norwegian waters of I and II	50	50	0%	50	0%	
Greenland halibut	International waters of I and II	2000	pm		900	-55%	
Greenland halibut	Greenland waters of NAFO 1	1925	1925	0%	1925	0%	
Greenland halibut	Greenland waters of V and XIV	4515	4515	0%	4515	0%	
Redfish (shallow pelagic)	Shallow pelagic - Union and international waters of V; international waters of XII and XIV	0	pm		pm		
Redfish (deep pelagic)	Deep pelagic - Union and international waters of V; international waters of XII and XIV	1313	pm		pm		
Redfish	Norwegian waters of I and II	1500	1500	0%	1500	0%	

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA							
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL			COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016	
Redfish	International waters of I and II		pm		pm		
Redfish (pelagic)	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and Greenland waters of V and XIV	1050	974	-7,2%	974	-7,2%	
Redfish (demersal)	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and Greenland waters of V and XIV	1700	pm		pm		
Redfish	Icelandic waters of Va	0	pm		pm		
Redfish	Faroese waters Vb	500	pm		pm		
Other species (1)	Norwegian waters of I and II	350	350	0%	350	0%	
Other species (1)	Faroese waters of Vb	800	pm		pm		
Flatfish	Faroese waters of Vb	100	pm		pm		
Other (by-catch)	Greenland waters	1126	pm		pm		

2017 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2016	COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
			TAC 2017 tonnes	TAC variation 2017-2016	TAC 2017	TAC variation 2017-2016
Snow crab	Areas I and IIb				20 licences	
Atlantic halibut	Greenland waters of V and XIV					
Atlantic halibut	Greenland waters of NAFO 1					
Porbeagle	French Guiana waters, Kattegat and Atlantic					
Whiting	<i>IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1</i>					

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

FISHERIES

Deep-sea fishing: Council adopts regulation on 2017-18 TACs and quotas

The Council adopted a Council Regulation based on Art. 43(3) TFEU, fixing the fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea stocks in the Union and international waters of the North-East Atlantic for the upcoming two years ([14623/16](#), statements in [ADD 1](#)).

The regulation fixes the total allowable catch (TAC) of fish from the following stocks: deep-sea sharks (unavoidable by-catch only), black scabbardfish, roundnose grenadier, alfonsino, red seabream and greater forkbeard.

Fishing for deep-sea species has been regulated by the EU since 2003 through total allowable catches (TACs) per species and per area, and maximum fishing effort deployable in the North-East Atlantic. The fishing opportunities for deep-sea species are decided every two years on the basis of scientific advice, in line with regulation [1380/2013](#) on the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Fishing opportunities for the Black Sea in 2017

The Council agreed on the fishing opportunities for the main commercially fish stocks in the Black Sea in 2017. This decision affects Bulgaria and Romania.

In particular, the Council decided to confirm the Commission proposal to allow a roll-over of the 2016 total allowable catches (TACs) into 2017. The catch limits for 2017 are therefore set at 11 475 tonnes for sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) and 86.4 tonnes for turbot (*Psetta maxima*).

The agreement is based on the best available scientific advice and the principles of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Black Sea stocks exploited by Bulgaria and Romania are shared with non-EU countries, e.g. Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia and the Russian Federation. However, no TACs are decided at regional level between EU and non-EU countries. Every year since 2008, the European Union has been fixing autonomous quotas for turbot and sprat stocks in order to help ensure that the CFP rules are applied.

Under article 43(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), it is for the Council to adopt measures on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities within the framework of the common fisheries policy. The European Parliament's participation and the Economic and Social Committee's opinion are therefore not required for the adoption of this regulation.

This item will be included, following finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts, in part 'A' of the agenda for adoption by the Council on 19 December.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Relations with Georgia

The Council adopted a decision on the EU's position regarding the modification of Annex XI-B to the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia.

TRADE

Relations with Moldova

The Council adopted a decision on the EU position regarding the establishment of a list of 15 arbitrators for dispute settlement proceedings within the framework of the Association Agreement between the EU and Moldova.

The list is composed of five arbitrators proposed by the EU, five proposed by Moldova and five who are not nationals of either party and who may serve as chairperson to the arbitration panel.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Money laundering and terrorist financing

The Council decided not to object to a Commission regulation amending regulation 2016/1675 and supplementing directive 2015/849 on the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing by identifying high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies ([15104/16](#) + [14857/16](#)).

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

BUDGETS

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Spain

The Council adopted a decision mobilising EUR €856 800 under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to provide support for 250 dismissed workers made redundant in 29 Spanish companies engaged in the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers. The redundancies are the result of continued major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation.

The EGF helps workers to find new jobs and develop new skills when they have lost their jobs as a result of changing global trade patterns, e.g. when a large company shuts down or a factory is moved outside the EU, or as a result of the global financial and economic crisis. The help of the EGF consists of co-financing measures such as job-search assistance, careers advice, tailor-made training and re-training, mentoring and the promotion of entrepreneurship. It also provides one-off, time-limited individual support, such as job-search allowances, mobility allowances and allowances for participating in lifelong learning and training activities.

SOCIAL POLICY

Statistics on income and living conditions

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of Commission regulation (EU) .../... of XXX implementing regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) as regards the list of target secondary variables on material deprivation, well-being and housing difficulties for 2018 ([13050/16](#) + ADD 1).

Statistics on population and housing censuses

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of Commission regulation (EU) .../... of XXX establishing the reference year and the programme of the statistical data and metadata for population and housing censuses ([13051/16](#) + ADD 1).
