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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

No. Cion doc.: 7342/16 PECHE 102 + ADD 1 - COM(2016) 146 final

Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands and the Implementation Protocol thereto
- *Adoption*

1. The European Commission submitted on 23 March 2016 the above proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands and the implementation Protocol thereto.
2. The Council decided, by written procedure, on 29 April 2016¹ to sign and provisionally apply the Agreement and the Protocol as well as to request the consent of the European Parliament to conclude them following the signing by the Parties².

¹ Cf. CM 2532/16.

² The texts of the agreement and protocol are published in OJ L 131 of 20.5.2016.

3. The European Union and the Cook Islands signed, on 3 May 2016, in Brussels, and respectively on 14 October 2016, in Avarua, the Agreement and Implementation Protocol thereto. The Agreement accordingly applies provisionally from 14 October 2016, pursuant to Article 16 thereof. The Protocol applies for a duration of four years from the date of its provisional application.
 4. The European Parliament gave its consent on 14 February 2017.
 5. COREPER is invited to suggest that the Council, at one of its forth-coming sessions, adopts the Decision to conclude the Agreement and the Protocol as set out in doc. 7592/16 PECHE 119 (as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts), and enters the Commission statement in the addendum to this note in the minutes of the Council.
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