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European Union

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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

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Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1343/2011 and (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005
- General approach

1. On 14 March 2016, the Commission submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council the above-mentioned proposal. The proposal aims at aligning the EU legislation currently in force governing technical measures with the objectives of the 2013 reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. In particular, it envisages a more simplified governance and legal framework, a more flexible decision-making procedure based on sound scientific grounds and regionally-based deliberations, conservation of resources applicable to all sea basins and to lessen administrative burdens. The Proposal intends to establish a set of baseline rules and standards which may be adapted through delegated acts based on joint recommendations taken by regional groups. These recommendations would be drawn up in the light of relevant regional elements, notably, new scientific assessments, technological progress on innovative gears, new management requirements and specific regional conditions.

2. At its exchange of views on 11 April 2016, the Council provided guidance on the proposal, in particular on the need to clarify objectives and targets and to streamline rules on mesh sizes and other fishing requirements.
3. The Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy discussed the proposal between 31 March 2016 and 20 April 2017. In the light of the discussions, the Presidency drew up a number of compromise texts¹ in view of a General Approach of the Council. A final Presidency compromise text (doc. 8151/17) received broad support in the Working Party on 20 April 2017. NL and UK entered parliamentary scrutiny reservations.
4. On 26 April 2017, the Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed its support to the final Presidency compromise² and agreed to submit it to the Council for adoption of a General Approach. Some delegations pointed out that there was still room to improve the text with some technical adjustments. Two delegations indicated that they could not support this compromise text.
5. Against this background, the Council is invited to agree on the General Approach as set out in doc. 8151/17 with a view to starting negotiations with the European Parliament.

¹ Documents 5853/17 and 5853/17 ADD 1 REV 1-2.

² Document 8151/17 + COR 1.