



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 27 October 2017
(OR. en)

13835/17

PECHE 421
PROCED 2

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: CM 4759/17

Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127

- Adoption

= End of the written procedure

Delegations will find herewith an explanation of vote by the Finnish delegation in the written procedure mentioned above.

Finland votes **NO** in the written procedure launched with document CM 4712/17 concerning the adoption of the Regulation on Baltic TACs for 2018.

Finland cannot agree to the compromise reached at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council 9.10.2017 since the scientific advice for the herring stock in the Gulf of Bothnia was not followed. The scientific advice was a reduction with 32 %, but the compromise is a groundless and unnecessarily large reduction of 40 %. The Fmsy range for the Bothnian Sea herring stock in Annex I of Regulation 2016/1139 cannot be used since the only available scientific advice concerns the herring stock in the whole Gulf of Bothnia and is therefore not compatible with the Fmsy range adopted for only the Bothnian Sea herring.

Therefore one should have followed the objective of MSY (Basic Regulation 1380/2013 Article 2 and Baltic multiannual plan 2016/1139 Article 3(1)) and the provision of using the best available scientific advice (Basic Regulation 1380/2013 Article 3.c and Baltic multiannual plan 2016/1139 Article 3(4)). Article 3(4) of Regulation 1139/2016 clearly states that "Measures under the plan shall be taken in accordance with the best available scientific advice". The scientific advice by ICES from 31.5.2017 on the Gulf of Bothnia herring stock forms the best available scientific advice and would have required a reduction of the TAC with 32 %.
