



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 24 March 2014

7530/14

(OR. en)

PRESSE 135

Illegal fishing activities: trade measures decided by the Council

The Council today triggered a series of measures affecting the trade in fisheries products and other fisheries- related activities with Belize, Cambodia and Guinea in order to put a stop to commercial benefits stemming from illegal fishing activities. Ultimately, fisheries products caught by vessels from these countries will be banned from being imported into the EU ([6262/14](#)).

The adoption of the implementing decision establishing a list of non-cooperating third countries in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing pursuant to regulation 1005/2008¹ is the first decision of this kind and follows a formal warning made in November 2012. This decision marks an intensification of the EU's fight against illegal fishing by identifying Belize, Cambodia and Guinea as non-cooperating third countries. Despite the EU working closely with the national authorities to set up fisheries management and effective control measures, the three countries have still not addressed structural problems and have failed to show real commitment to tackling the problem of illegal fishing.

Fisheries products caught by vessels flying the three countries' flags will be banned from being imported into the EU. EU vessels will have to stop fishing in these waters. Other forms of cooperation, such as joint fishing operations or fisheries agreements with these countries, will no longer be possible.

¹ OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1.

P R E S S

The decision is consistent with the EU's international commitment to ensuring the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources at home and abroad through compliance with IUU rules adopted by the United Nations and the FAO. All of the identified countries have failed to fulfil their duties as flag, coastal, port or market states - for example, by not complying with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) or the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. The EU's approach towards combating illegal fishing reflects the fact that IUU fishing is a global criminal activity which is harmful not only to EU fishermen and markets but also to local communities in developing countries.

Fiji, Panama, Sri Lanka, Togo and Vanuatu also received formal warnings in 2012. The remedial actions introduced by those countries are being monitored continuously through bilateral dialogue, and a progress report is due shortly. In addition, formal warnings were given to Korea, Ghana and Curacao in November 2013.

The EU is also continuing the dialogue with the three countries listed as non-cooperating, as some of them have initiated attempts to address IUU fishing.

Regulation 1005/2008 establishes a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. This key instrument in the fight against illegal fishing aims to allow access to the EU market only to fisheries products that have been certified as legal by the flag state or the exporting state concerned.
