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**NOTE**

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To: Delegations

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Subject: Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 43/2014 as regards certain fishing opportunities

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Delegations will find attached declarations by the Danish and Irish delegations.

**Declaration by the Danish Delegation on access arrangements for mackerel**

Denmark regrets that the European Commission without having consulted Member States with major interest in the mackerel fishery in the North Sea proposed a drastic alteration to the management of mackerel stock in EU waters by increasing the access from Western waters to the North Sea from 40 to 60 % and thereby increasing the fishing possibilities in the North Sea by nearly 100.000 tons.

Since the proposed increased access for mackerel will only have practical effects for the fisheries from 1 September 2014 there would have been time to undertake a transparent consultation process on any possible balanced changes to the access arrangements for mackerel involving all relevant Member States up until 1 September 2014.

However in light of the urgent need to implement as soon as possible the result of the bilateral fisheries consultations with Norway, The Faroe Islands and Coastal states arrangements on Blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring Denmark is prepared to accept the Presidency compromise on access arrangements for mackerel, but only as an ad hoc arrangement for 2014. Denmark finds that any change of the internal access arrangements for mackerel in place until 2013 shall be discussed in a transparent way before a decision is taken for 2015.

## Written statement of Ireland

### **Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 43/2014 as regards certain fishing opportunities**

docs. 8561/14 PECHE 181

This proposal amends Regulation (EU) No 43/2014 as regards certain fishing opportunities to take into account recent agreements on fish stocks at Coastal States and EU/Norway bilateral.

Ireland has maintained a very clear and consistent line on the Coastal State Mackerel negotiations throughout. Ireland has always been in favour of a deal that would bring an end to the irresponsible and excessive fishing of mackerel engaged in by Iceland and the Faeroe Islands over the past five years. However, the agreement reached comes at an excessive price for the Union and Ireland does not consider that it provides a fair and balanced sharing arrangement for the mackerel stock.

The distribution of shares in the recent agreement gave the Faeroe Islands a significantly increased 12.6% share of the stock and set aside a further 15.6% for Iceland, Greenland and Russia. Ireland remains firmly of the view that these shares are excessive and not objectively justified.

As a result of the agreement, the Faeroe Islands share is now 50% higher than the Irish share, despite the fact that almost all of the mackerel stock spawns and grows in the EU western waters area. Ireland's coastal communities have a long standing dependence on the mackerel fishery from both a catching and processing perspective. This agreement will have a negative impact on those coastal communities over the five year period of the agreement.

It is for these reasons that Ireland is voting against the proposal.