



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 13 May 2014
(OR. en)**

9788/14

PECHE 247

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion doc.: 8483/14 PECHE 172 + ADD 1- COM(2014) 206 final

Subject: Recommendation for a Council Decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Mozambique
- adoption of the Council Decision

1. The European Commission submitted the above recommendation to the Council on 1 April 2014.
2. The ex-post and ex-ante evaluation of the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Mozambique was received on 30 April 2014¹.
3. The Working Party on External Fisheries Policy examined the recommendation on 8 and 13 May 2014 and reached an agreement on the text on the basis of a draft Council Decision including negotiating directives².

¹ Cf. doc. 9416/14 PECHE 225 + ADD 1.

² Cf. ds 1189/14.

4. In the light of the fact that this Protocol expires at the end of this year, that various internal meetings in June and July will make the Mozambique negotiators less available and the long internal EU procedures, negotiations should according to the Commission services be launched as soon as possible, preferably already at the end of this month. The French, Portuguese and Spanish delegations underlined that interruptions of fishing activities should be avoided.
5. The Danish, French and Netherlands delegations entered parliamentary scrutiny reserves. The Swedish delegation entered a general scrutiny reserve.
6. Consequently, COREPER is invited to confirm the agreement reached at the level of the Working Party and to suggest that the Council, at a forthcoming session;
 - adopts the Decision on opening negotiations and adopts the negotiating directives as set out in doc. 9784/14 PECHE 246;
 - decides not to publish the Decision in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of its Rules of Procedure;
 - notes that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and therefore a paper copy of the Decision including the negotiating directives will be transmitted to the Parliament;
 - enters the statements in the Addendum to this note in the minutes of the Council.