



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 26 May 2014
(OR. en)**

10098/14

PECHE 265

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion doc.: 10006/14 PECHE 260 + ADD 1 - COM(2014) 264 final

Subject: Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol with the Republic of Liberia

- adoption of the Council Decision

1. The European Commission submitted the above recommendation to the Council on 15 May 2014.
2. The ex-ante evaluation of a possible future Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia was received on 28 February 2014¹.
3. The Working Party on External Fisheries Policy examined the recommendation on 23 May 2014 and reached an agreement on the text on the basis of a draft Council Decision including negotiating directives². In addition the Working Party agreed in the meeting to add a point requesting the inclusion of an exclusivity clause and a revision clause.

¹ Cf. doc. 7143/14 PECHE 104.

² Cf. ds 1251/14.

4. The French and Netherlands delegations entered parliamentary scrutiny reserves. The Swedish and United Kingdom delegations entered a general scrutiny reserve.
5. 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. 10175/14 PECHE 281;
 - 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.
