



Brussels, 4 December 2014
(OR. en)

16532/14

Interinstitutional File:
2014/0317 (NLE)

PECHE 580

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
No. prev. doc.:	14960/14 PECHE 509 - COM(2014) 684 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION concerning the allocation of the fishing opportunities under the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Madagascar - preparation for adoption

1. The European Commission submitted the above proposal to the Council on 31 October 2014 together with a proposal for the signature and provisional application of the Protocol as well as a proposal on the conclusion thereof. The current protocol expires at the end of December and an interruption of fishing activities will occur unless the new Protocol can be signed before then.
2. While an agreement on the text of the Protocol was found at the level of the Working Party at its meetings on 5 November and 4 December 2014¹, an agreement could not be found with regard to the allocation of fishing licences for purse seiners under the Protocol.
3. On 4 December 2014 the Presidency tabled a compromise as set out on doc. 16406/14 PECHE 573 in which it suggests that Spain be allocated licences for 19 purse seiner vessels, Italy 1 and France 20.

¹ Cf. doc. 16176/14 PECHE 565.

4. All delegations, except the Spanish delegation, could accept the compromise. The Spanish delegation did not agree, notably invoking the fact that it could not accept that the inclusion of the fleet of Mayotte affects the number of licences allocated to Spain; it considered that France should bear the burden of the inclusion of the Mayotte vessels. It further considered that the proposed way of integrating the Mayotte fleet would be detrimental to the relative stability and that Spain in the past had made better use of its fishing opportunities under the Protocol. The Spanish delegation insists on retaining its current 21 purse seine licences. It reserved its right to take legal action should this demand not be met.
 5. The Netherlands delegation noted that its parliamentary reserve was still pending.
 6. COREPER is invited to discuss the outstanding issue with a view to enabling the adoption of the proposed Regulation.
-