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"A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
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 - 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 2014 and an interruption of fishing activities will occur unless the new Protocol can be signed before then.
2. The Working Party, at its meetings on 5 November and 4 December 2014¹, found an agreement on the signing of the fisheries Protocol, while the allocation of fishing licences for purse seiners under the Protocol needed further discussion, in view of the need to incorporate Mayotte-based vessels into the system of EU licences.²

¹ Cf. doc. 16176/14 PECHE 565.

² Cf. preparatory doc. 16406/14 PECHE 573.

3. On 10 December 2014 the Committee of Permanent Representatives noted an agreement found between the Member States concerned with regard to the distribution of licences for purse seiners, so that Article 1a) of the Regulation would read:

(a) tuna seiners:

Spain: **20** vessels

France: **19** vessels

Italy: **1** vessel

4. Consequently, Council is invited to confirm the agreement reached at Coreper and to adopt the Regulation concerning the allocation of fishing opportunities under the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Madagascar and the European Community, as set out in doc. 15228/1/14 PECHE523 REV 1 COR 1 (as finalised by the legal linguistic experts).
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