



Brussels, 12 January 2015  
(OR. en)

5060/15

PECHE 6

#### "I/A" ITEM NOTE

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From: Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

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No. Cion doc.: 15560/14 PECHE 538 + ADD 1 - COM(2014) 694 final

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Subject: Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other hand

- *Adoption*

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1. The European Commission submitted the above proposal on 14 November 2014 to the Council. The Council also received, on the same day, the related ex-post and ex-ante evaluation of the fisheries protocol with Kiribati.
2. The Working Party on External Fisheries Policy examined the recommendation on 20 November 2014 and 8 January 2015. The Commission representative underlined
  - the strategic importance of the protocol in the Pacific region,
  - the good utilisation of seiner licences,
  - the alignment of the protocol with the CFP reform,

- the dependence of the Kiribati treasury on income derived from the activity of foreign fleets,
- and the strong competition with third country fleets, making the EU a smaller player.

The United Kingdom, Netherlands and Danish delegations requested that efforts be continued to improve the ecological sustainability of Fish Aggregating Devices. The United Kingdom delegation also questioned the support to local devices of this type using the sectoral support allocation.

3. The Danish and Netherlands delegations entered parliamentary scrutiny reserves, which they subsequently were able to lift.

The Working Party reached an agreement on the text on the basis of a draft Council Decision including negotiating directives<sup>1</sup>.

4. 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. 5059/15 PECHE 5;
- 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 statement in the Addendum to this note in the minutes of the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. doc. 16108/14 PECHE 564.