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PECHE 7

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	13568/14 PECHE 439 + ADD 1 - COM(2014) 580 final + Annex
Subject:	Council Decision concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the amended Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean - Request to the European Parliament for consent

1. The European Commission submitted the above proposal on 23 September 2014 to the Council, following up on the agreement that the GFCM annual meeting of 19 to 24 April 2014 reached on the changes that should be made to the GFCM Agreement.
2. The Working Party on External Fisheries Policy examined the proposal on 2nd October and 11 December 2014. The Danish and United Kingdom delegations entered parliamentary scrutiny reserves. These delegations and the Spanish, Maltese and Greek delegations entered general scrutiny reserves.
3. The FAO Council, at its 150th meeting on 1 to 5 December 2014, approved the changes to the GFCM Agreement in accordance with the General Rules of the FAO and with Article X.3 of the GFCM Agreement. The official notification of the FAO Council's deliberations is pending.

4. The EU Member States being members of GFCM have or are going to, after notification by the FAO, initiate ratification procedures regarding the changes to the GFCM Agreement.
 5. The Council's Decision on accepting the changes to the GFCM Agreement on behalf of the European Union needs the prior consent by the European Parliament.
 6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that Council requests the consent of the European Parliament on the amended Agreement (as set out in doc. 15458/14 PECHE 528) with a view to the later adoption of the Council Decision on the acceptance, on behalf of the European Union, of the amended Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (doc. 14993/1/14 REV 1 PECHE 514).
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