



Council of the
European Union

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PECHE 244

NOTE

From: Portuguese delegation
To: Council

Subject: Ministerial meeting during the "Blue Week" event in Portugal (3-6 June 2015)
- At the request of the Portuguese delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note received from the Portuguese delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 13 July 2015.

Information note from the Portuguese Delegation

Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 13 July 2015

Blue Week – 3-6 June 2015

The Blue Week event took place last June (3-6) and included the 3rd edition of the World Ocean Summit organized by the *Economist Events*, a *Blue Business Forum*, a major international business meeting of the maritime economy (fair, conferences, workshops, B2B) and a ministerial meeting organized by the Portuguese Government.

This ministerial meeting was attended by more than 70 delegations from all over the world. A declaration was approved by unanimity by the participating delegations. This declaration reinforces the concept of blue economy and its financing needs and considers maritime spatial planning and management as a relevant tool to foster sustainable development of the ocean. Throughout 26 paragraphs this declaration emphasizes that blue economy needs an innovative, integrated, ecosystem-based and multidimensional approach that takes into account not only the conventional uses of the oceans, but also emerging technologies and uses. Decoupling socio-economic development from environmental degradation, following an approach founded upon the assessment and incorporation of the true value of natural capital into all aspects of economic activity is a challenge that these delegations (countries and international organizations, such as EU, FAO, OECD, UN, UNEP) acknowledged as a relevant issue to be tackled. Finally, it was recognized that ocean governance and maritime policies demand more dialogue, coordination and integration of sectorial policies at all levels.