



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 24 September 2015
(OR. en)

11278/05
DCL 1

PECHE 150

DECLASSIFICATION

of document: 11278/05 RESTREINT UE

dated: 18 July 2005

new status: Public

Subject: Greenland: preparation of the first round of negotiations
(Brussels, 1-3 August 2005)

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 18 July 2005

11278/05

RESTREINT UE

PECHE 150

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : Working Party on External Fisheries Policy
on : 12 July 2005
Subject : Greenland: preparation of the first round of negotiations
(Brussels, 1-3 August 2005)

Item 4: Greenland: preparation of the first round of negotiations (Brussels, 1 - 3 August 2005)

The Commission representative made the following comments on the draft agenda for the meeting¹.

- The scientific advice would be reviewed and scientists would be asked for their views on the evolution of the stocks over the next five to six years;
- The review of the modified fourth protocol would be completed by an assessment on the evaluation report;

¹ See Note to Delegations 288/05.

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- the idea would be to fix fishing possibilities for six years but to review the scientific advice annually in fixing the annual Community quotas. The aim would be to review the value of the agreement annually but this was still being worked on;
- the text of the fisheries partnership agreement (FPA) was being adjusted and work was also on-going on the draft protocol and draft annex;
- work was also progressing on scenarios of quotas and values under a new fisheries protocol;
- a second, and it is to be hoped, final round of negotiations was planned for October.

Documents were not yet ready but the Commission representative said they should be ready for the technical meeting on 22 July 2005. Industry would be consulted in the morning, where Member States could be observers, and Member State administrations in the afternoon.

DE stressed the importance of having the full evaluation report in the time for the technical meeting on 22 July so there was time to analyse it. A number of questions came out of the summary of the report such as the use of quotas, the value of fishing possibilities and the different cost structure of individual fleets which was linked to licence fees. DE assumed the draft texts of the FPA, protocol and annex would be sent to Member States prior to 22 July. DE also had a number of technical questions such as the licence procedures, reporting and conversion factors and was wondering when they might best be discussed.

ES: would meet the Commission bi-laterally to discuss a problem on snowcrab.

IE: sought clarification on the timescale for the scientific advice.

PT: flexibility in the use of fishing possibilities was the most important issue for it in the future agreement as utilisation had often been low in the past owing to difficulties in transferring quotas.

DK: supported DE in wishing to receive the complete evaluation report.

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The Commission representative gave the following replies:

- The timing of the scientific advice from the ACFM and NAFO was pretty fixed although one could ask for snowcrab earlier. Difficult to see, however, how to avoid a meeting each year with Greenland at the end of November to fix the TAC for the following year. One would need all the scientific advice before then;
- on flexibility, there were quotas without by-catches which made it difficult to catch;
- on the technical issues raised by DE, it was suggested to do that on a separate occasion and not at the negotiations in August;
- it understood the issue on snowcrab to be about access to certain zones and possible discrimination between national and Community fishermen;
- reporting of catches has been another technical problem. The report from Greenland seemed satisfactory and would be forwarded to DE.

Community coordination would take place at 10h00 on Monday 1 August at the premises of DG FISH. A Communication to this effect would be issued by the Council Secretariat in due course.