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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
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Subject:	COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of 12.10.2015 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in South-Western waters - <i>Statement</i>

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**Statement by Denmark, Germany, Spain, Latvia, Croatia, the Netherlands and Estonia on the  
delegated acts on discard plans**

Denmark, Germany, Spain, Latvia, Croatia, the Netherlands and Estonia welcome the delegated acts on the discard plans for fisheries where the discard ban enters into force 1 January 2016.

Denmark, Germany, Spain, Latvia, Croatia, the Netherlands and Estonia recognize the need for an urgent decision on the discard plans to ensure that the delegated acts are published as soon as possible before the end of the year. Denmark, Germany, Spain, Latvia, Croatia, the Netherlands and Estonia do not object to the delegated acts, however the Commission in its preparatory work should carry out appropriate consultations, including at expert level, cf. where-as clause no. 67 in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy (“The Basic Regulation”).

These expert consultations should include experts from Member States, and the consultation should be held at the appropriate level. Although the delegated acts on discard plans are based on Joint Recommendations from Member States with a direct management interest, such consultations are important for the sake of transparency and clarification. Denmark, Germany, Spain, Latvia, Croatia, the Netherlands and Estonia urge the Commission to carry out such expert consultations in the future.

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