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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. prev. doc.:	14039/1/15 REV 1 PECHE 423 UD 218
No. Cion doc.:	11010/15 PECHE 259 UD 159 + ADD 1 - COM(2015) 344 final + Annex
Subject:	Council Regulation opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the period 2016-2018 - <i>Adoption</i>

1. On 16 July 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council its proposal for a Council Regulation opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the period 2016-2018.
2. Through autonomous tariff quotas, Member States' fish processing industries dispose of an instrument to import unprocessed or semi-processed fish products at a favourable duty rate, mostly 0%, irrespective of their origin, up to a certain ceiling expressed in tonnes. The current quotas expire on 31 December 2015.

3. The proposal's objective is to ensure a competitive provision of raw material to Union processors of fishery products who depend on imports. At the same time, the interplay of these rules with the array of trade relations of the Union needs to be taken into account, as well as the impact on the EU producers of raw material and on the EU's budget. The proposal is based on consultations with Member States and stakeholders, on an external study, and on the assessment of the quota use under the current rules.
4. The Working Party on Internal Fisheries Policy examined the proposal on 16 July, 3, 9 and 30 September, 29 October and 12 November 2015. DK entered a parliamentary scrutiny reserve. Delegations submitted written comments,¹ following which the Presidency tabled a compromise document.²
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee discussed outstanding issues on 27 November 2015, based on a revised Presidency compromise that the Commission representative was able to support.³ The following further changes to the compromise were agreed: The duty level for herring in brine was reduced to 5%; the quota for loins of tuna was increased to 25 000 t, the one for surimi to 60 000 t, and the one for hard fish roes, washed, to 3 000 t. These changes were acceptable to most delegations. PL could not support this compromise, and IE announced its intention to abstain. The Commission representative entered a positive scrutiny reservation *ad referendum*.
6. As a consequence, the Permanent Representatives Committee could suggest that Council:
 - a) adopt, by qualified majority, the Regulation as finalised by the lawyer-linguists in doc. 13502/15 PECHE 397 UD 211, and
 - b) enter in its minutes the statement(s) contained in the addendum to this note.

¹ Docs 11919/15 PECHE 289 UD 180 TDC 6 + ADD 1 - 15. A summary of the initial comments can be found in doc. 12284/1/15 REV 1 PECHE 312 UD 188.

² Doc. 13274/1/15 REV 1 PECHE 378 UD 207 TDC 10.

³ Doc. 13274/2/15 REV 2 PECHE 378 UD 207 TDC 10.