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Subject:	Council Regulation opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the period 2016-2018 - <i>Statement</i>

Statement by Irish delegation

Ireland supported the Commission proposal for this regulation and the effort of the presidency in coming to a satisfactory agreement for this file given the diverse opinions, whilst also acknowledging that the processing sector has supply needs requiring product from outside the Union.

However, Ireland is not in a position to support the compromise as we believe that it is not balanced and we will, therefore, abstain.

The final compromise, we believe, provides preferential access for imported product beyond what is required to fill gaps in the EU's internal supply. This will be to the detriment of EU primary producers and the ancillary industries in coastal communities dependent on fisheries. We have concerns in particular about the spiced herring tariff reduction, which must be seen in conjunction with the generous access afforded Norway for this product in the EEA Financial Mechanism, as well as the reintroduction of the Article 3 safety mechanism which we believe is excessive.
