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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks in the Black Sea - Statements

Statement by Bulgaria and Romania on turbot

Bulgaria and Romania commit, in the context of the adoption of the Regulation fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks in the Black Sea, and in addition to the full implementation of the provisions of the Action Plan of 16 December 2014 to implement the following measures:

Turbot

- reduce by 20 % for Bulgaria and 15 % for Romania the 2015 level of fishing authorisations for Turbot combined with a minimum allocation per boat (to avoid inappropriately small allocations);

- reduce their respective number of designated ports for landings to 7 for Bulgaria and 10 for Romania in order to streamline the control of landings;
- implement a strict policy for the recording of all catches, including below 50 kg, in corresponding logbooks, landing declarations and sales notes of all authorised vessels,
- increase significantly the number of joint market inspections and inspections at sea, including during the closed season, based on a risk assessment methodology and an action plan agreed with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) including joint actions under the coordination of EFCA,
- intensify the work to inform the public about the technical conditions and closed season applying to Turbot fishing activities.
- any other measures that are deemed necessary to address the misreporting, the illegal fishery of Turbot in the Black Sea and the marketing of the catches illegally caught in the region in close cooperation with the Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

Statement by Bulgaria and Romania on Piked dogfish

Bulgaria and Romania commit

- to limit their respective catches of Piked Dogfish in 2016 to the 2015 level of their catches and to inform the Commission on a quarterly basis of the actions taken to meet this objective,
- to reduce significantly the 2015 level of fishing authorisations for Piked dogfish,
- to implement a strict policy for the recording of all catches, including below 50 kg, in corresponding logbooks, landing declarations and sales notes of all authorised vessels as well as vessels having by-catches of dogfish.

Council and Commission statement on control issues

The Council and the Commission consider that in order to address the misreporting and illegal fishery of turbot in the Black Sea, the implementation of control and monitoring measures established since 2012 should be further improved. The relevant Member States should dedicate the necessary efforts to address systemic deficiencies in their control system and to ensure effectiveness of the measures that have been decided.

An evaluation of the degree of implementation of these measures together with a review of their efficiency should be carried out by the Commission before 30 June 2016, in view of any action that may be required to address the situation.

II. Ad regional cooperation

Council and Commission Statement

The Council and the Commission agree that the existing regional cooperation on fisheries in the Black Sea should be further enhanced in order to promote sustainable stock management in this area and will continue to take restrictive actions in line with their competences. To this end, the EU is committed to submit proposals as from 2016 to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) to adopt measures for Turbot and Piked dogfish reflecting the measures for the said species already being implemented within the European Union part of the Black Sea and favourably consider proposing any other measures with a view to reaching MSY in 2020.

The Council and the Commission also agree that these proposals should include the establishment of international management measures, such as long-term management plans and catch limitation schemes at regional level, in line with the precautionary approach and with a view to provide high long-term yields to achieve fishing mortality at MSY by 2020. The proposal for long-term management plans will also contain measures related to control and joint inspections between riparian states, as well as scientific monitoring and adjustment mechanisms to reflect the situations of the relevant fish stocks.

Furthermore, the EU will seek to ensure that GFCM pay particular attention to the full compliance of its Members and the Cooperating non-Members of GFCM to implement the actions established in the roadmap for fighting against IUU in the Black Sea adopted in 2013.

Council Statement

The Council invites the Commission to continue its efforts to promote coordinated fisheries management in the Black Sea on a bilateral basis with the individual Black Sea coastal states.

Commission Statement

The Commission will closely monitor the respect of the commitments undertaken by Bulgaria and Romania and take any appropriate measure to enforce these commitments and obligations of Bulgaria and Romania for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy.
