



Brussels, 3 March 2016  
(OR. en)

5902/16

PECHE 37

## "I/A" ITEM NOTE

---

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council
Subject:	Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Union of Comoros - Adoption

---

1. The European Commission submitted the above Recommendation to the Council on 22 January 2016<sup>1</sup>. The Council had previously received from the Commission an assessment of the implementation of the current Protocol, which recommended to renew it for more than the current three years<sup>2</sup>. The current Protocol will expire on 31 December 2016. The Commission services would like to open the negotiations between 21 and 23 March 2016.
2. The Working Party on External Fisheries Policy examined the recommendation on 28 January, 4 and 11 February. On 3 March 2016, an agreement was reached on a draft Council Decision together with negotiating directives, as well as on a joint Council and Commission statement<sup>3</sup>.
3. DK entered a parliamentary scrutiny reservation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Cf. doc. 5480/16 PECHE 20 + ADD 1.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. doc. 15554/15 PECHE 495.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. doc. DS 1030/2/16 REV2. For further details, see Outcome of Proceedings (doc. 6780/16 PECHE 64).

4. During the examination, the Commission representative recalled that the Commission does not consider it necessary to mention in the Council Decision a substantial legal basis (Article 43 TFEU). The Commission would make statements to the minutes.
5. Consequently, COREPER is invited to confirm the agreement reached at the level of the Working Party and to suggest that the Council, at a forthcoming session:
- adopts the Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the mentioned Protocol, as well as the negotiating directives, as set out in doc. 5903/16 PECHÉ 38;
  - decides not to publish the Decision in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of its Rules of Procedure;
  - notes that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and therefore a paper copy of the Council Decision including the negotiating directives, as well as a copy of the statements, will be transmitted to the European Parliament;
  - enters the statements in the Addendum to this note in the minutes of the Council.
-