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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual plan for fish stocks in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 establishing a multiannual plan for the Baltic Sea, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) 509/2007 and (EC) 1300/2008

- Presentation by the Commission
- Exchange of views

1. On 23 March 2018, the Commission submitted to the European Parliament and the Council a proposal for a multi-annual plan for fish stocks in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 establishing a multiannual plan for the Baltic Sea, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) 509/2007 and (EC) 1300/2008.
2. The aim of this proposal is to establish a management plan for demersal stocks, including deep-sea stocks, and their fisheries in the Western Waters, for the purpose of ensuring the sustainable exploitation of these stocks, in accordance with the principles of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management as well as the precautionary approach. The plan aims also at ensuring that management is based on the most up to date scientific information on stocks, taking into account the highly mixed nature of these fisheries, while implementing the landing obligation for the covered fish stocks.

3. The Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries took note of a first presentation of the proposal on 28 March 2018. While broadly welcoming the proposal, delegations brought forward some initial observations regarding, notably:
 - the necessity to take into account the different characteristics of the fisheries in the northern and southern areas of the waters covered by the plan;
 - the inclusion of some deep-sea stocks and resulting consequences for those fisheries which needed to be further analysed;
 - the need to carefully consider the socio-economic impact of the plan.
 4. DK and UK entered a parliamentary scrutiny reservation.
 5. COREPER/Council is invited to take note of the presentation by the Commission and to give its views on this subject matter.
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