



Council of the  
European Union

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AGRI 303  
PECHE 238

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
**(Agriculture and Fisheries)**  
18 June 2018

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## 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 9730/18.

## 2. Approval of "A" items

### a) Non-legislative list


9531/18

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 9531/18 including COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements related to these items are set out in the Addendum.

For the following item the documents should read as follows:

### Environment

12. Council Decision Art. 241 TFEU on Aarhus Regulation  
*Adoption*  
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 13.06.2018

 9649/18 + ADD 1  
+ **ADD 1 COR 1**  
+ **COR 2**  
9422/18  
ENV

- b) **Legislative list (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)**

9733/18

### Fisheries

1. **Regulation amending the Baltic Sea multi-annual plan**  
*Adoption of the legislative act*  
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 13.06.2018

 9721/18  
PE-CONS 23/18  
PECHE

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 43(2) TFEU).

2. **Regulation on the North Sea multi-annual plan** 🗳️ 9723/18 + COR 1  
*Adoption of the legislative act*  
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 13.06.2018 + ADD 1

+ ADD 2 REV 2  
PE-CONS 14/18  
PECHE

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, with Denmark voting against, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 43(2) TFEU).

Statements related to this item are set out in the Annex.

3. **Regulation on South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)** 🗳️ 9722/18  
*Adoption of the legislative act*  
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 13.06.2018 PE-CONS 17/18

PECHE

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 43(2) TFEU).

### Economic and Financial Affairs

4. **Council position on draft amending budget No 2/2018** 🗳️ 9324/1/18 REV 1  
*Adoption*  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 07.06.2018 FIN

The Council adopted its position on draft amending budget No 2/2018 as set out in 9324/1/18 REV 1.

### General Affairs

5. **Reform of the Electoral Act** 🗳️ 9756/18  
*Agreement in principle*  
*Request for the consent of the European Parliament*  
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 15.06.2018 9425/18

AG

The Council agreed in principle, with Belgium and the United Kingdom abstaining, on the draft Council Decision as finalised by the legal-linguists and set out in doc. 9425/18, and decided to forward it to the European Parliament for its consent.

6. **Regulation on statistics of goods transport by inland waterways (codification)**  9720/18  
*Adoption of the legislative act* PE-CONS 16/18  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 13.06.2018 CODIF  
MI

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 338(1) TFEU).


## FISHERIES

### Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

3. **Regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**  9631/18  
*Presentation by the Commission* 9627/18 + ADD 1  
*Exchange of views*

The Council took note of the Commission's presentation of its proposal and of the first comments made by delegations.

4. **Regulation amending Council Regulations as regards fisheries control**  9633/18 + COR 1  
*Presentation by the Commission* 9317/18 + ADD 1  
*Exchange of views*

The Council took note of the Commission's presentation of its proposal and of the first comments made by delegations.

### Non-legislative activities

The Council addressed the following non-legislative discussion item. (5)

5. Communication on the state of play of the CFP and consultation on the Fishing Opportunities for 2019 9771/18  
*Presentation by the Commission* 9635/18  
*Exchange of views*

## AGRICULTURE

### Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

6. **Post 2020 CAP reform package** **IC** 9645/18 + COR 1  
+ADD 1
- a) **Regulation on CAP strategic plans** 9634/18 + COR 1  
+ ADD 1
- b) **Regulation on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP** 9556/18 + REV 1  
+ REV 1 COR 1
- c) **Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products**

*Presentation by the Commission*

*Exchange of views*

The Council took note of the Commission's presentation of its proposals on the future Common Agricultural Policy.

The Council exchanged views on the Commission's legislative proposals.

The Council took note of the "Memorandum on the CAP in the context of the next MFF", signed by the Ministers of Agriculture of Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, and supported by a number of other delegations.

The Council also took note of the information provided by Cyprus on the decreasing water availability for agriculture in their country.

### Non-legislative activities

The Council addressed the following non-legislative discussion item. (7)

7. Market situation  
*Information from the Commission*

## Any other business

The Council addressed the following any other business items. (8 a) - b))

### 8. Fisheries

- a) International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) report of 30 May 2018  
*Information from the Netherlands delegation* 9934/18

### Agriculture

- b) Stepping up EU efforts to reduce the threat to honeybees and other pollinators  
*Information from the Slovenian delegation, supported by the Luxembourg and Polish delegations* 9882/18
- c) **Memorandum on the CAP in the context of the next MFF**  
*Information from the French, Finnish, Greek, Irish, Portuguese and Spanish delegations, supported by the Croatian, Cyprus, Czech, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Luxembourg, Polish, Romanian and Slovak delegations* 10024/1/18 REV 1
- d) **Decreasing availability of water for agriculture in Cyprus**  
*Information from the Cyprus delegation* 10040/18

Items 8 c) and d) were addressed under item 6.



The Council addressed the following any other business items. (8 e) - h))

- |    |   |          |
|----|---|----------|
| e) | Disposal of skimmed milk powder stocks<br><i>Information from the French delegation</i>   | 9502/18  |
| f) | Situation in the pig meat market<br><i>Information from the Polish delegation</i>   | 10038/18 |
| g) | Final determinations for anti-subsidy and anti-dumping duties against Spanish table olives by the US authorities<br><i>Information from the Spanish delegation</i>  | 10083/18 |
| h) | Joint declaration of the ministers of agriculture of the Visegrad group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia and the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) on the Vision of the Central Eastern European Initiative for Knowledge-based Agriculture, Aquaculture and Forestry in the Bio-economy "BIOEAST"<br><i>Information from the Hungarian delegation</i> | 10025/18 |

- 
- I** First reading  
**C** Item based on a Commission proposal  
**S** Special legislative procedure
-

**STATEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in 9733/18**

**Ad "A" item 2:**        **Regulation on the North Sea multi-annual plan**  
*Adoption of the legislative act*

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL  
on prohibited species**

"The Regulation to be adopted on the basis of the Commission proposal on the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures (2016/0074(COD)) should contain provisions, inter alia, on the species for which fishing is prohibited. For that reason the two institutions have agreed not to include a list concerning the North Sea in this Regulation (2016/0238(COD))."

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL  
on control**

"The European Parliament and the Council will include the following control provisions in the upcoming review of the Control Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009) where relevant to the North Sea: prior notifications, logbook requirements, designated ports, and other control provisions."

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION**

"The Commission will request the ranges of FMSY and other biological reference points from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The Commission considers that, as a general rule, the fishing opportunities should be based on the best available scientific advice provided by ICES. In the unlikely event that ICES is either unable to provide the ranges of FMSY and other biological reference points or where there are serious reasons to believe that the advice issued by ICES does not meet the requirement for the best available scientific advice, the fishing opportunities will be based on the best available scientific advice that has either been issued or reviewed by an independent scientific body that is recognised at the Union or international level."

## **STATEMENT BY BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE, LATVIA AND SPAIN**

"Belgium, Denmark, France, Latvia and Spain consider that the mechanism proposed for the updating of ranges of FMSY is a new tool that could represent a real improvement in the managing of the multi-annual plan and its flexibility. Nevertheless, this new tool also raised some concerns regarding the respect of institutional prerogative of each institution. In this regard, Belgium, Denmark, France, Latvia and Spain ask for an annual interim-evaluation in the Council each first quarter of the year to assess whether this tool attains those objectives and whether intermediary solutions should be looked for."

## **STATEMENT BY DENMARK**

"Denmark welcomes the final compromise proposal for a multi-annual plan for the demersal stocks in the North Sea in which Denmark has considerable interests.

We are pleased to note the substantial improvements made to the proposal during the negotiations: These improvements have resulted in a final compromise proposal focussing on the relevant species. A solution has been found in order to take into account of the latest scientific advice on F-MSY ranges and reference points and the compromise refrains from including additional control measures and includes reference to management of stocks of common interest.

Throughout the negotiations on this proposal, Denmark has emphasized the need for a concrete reference to socio-economic concerns. Although, we would have preferred such a reference in the articles, we appreciate the reference in the recitals.

However, one issue of the utmost importance to Denmark remain:

It is crucial to allow for the necessary flexibility in the regulation in setting TACs, in particular making it possible for data limited stocks to take into account an increase in a stock and the fishery of this stock. This is to allow for the continued flexibility agreed by the European Parliament and the Council in the current long-term plan for cod stocks in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat among others (EU) 1342/2008, which has been applied for the specific circumstances in the case of cod in Kattegat. Denmark has proposed a provision in line with the current long-term plan for cod stocks to be included in the new North Sea multi-annual plan.

Since the compromise proposal does not include a specific reference in line with the flexibility in the cod plan, Denmark cannot support the final compromise to be adopted by the Council."