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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

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Agriculture and Fisheries

Brussels, 17 and 18 December 2018

President **Elisabeth Köstinger**
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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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ITEMS DEBATED

AGRICULTURE

Post 2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform package

In public session the presidency presented to the Council its progress report (15027/18) on the work carried out in the Council and its preparatory bodies on all the Commission proposals of the CAP reform package:

- a regulation on CAP strategic plans
- a regulation on financing, managing and monitoring of the CAP
- a regulation on a common market organisation of agricultural products

The delegations that took the floor welcomed the report and the progress made by the presidency during the semester. They also highlighted some of the issues to be further discussed before a Council compromise position can be reached. These include: the simplification and actual functioning of the new delivery model, the performance framework, 'green' architecture, coupled payments, some aspects of market measures and of the wine market.

Many ministers touched upon issues covered by the horizontal negotiations on the EU's multi-annual financial framework for 2021-2027, in particular the CAP budget and the cuts proposed by the Commission. Possible cuts were a matter of concern for many delegations. Ministers stressed the importance for the Common Agricultural Policy to receive an appropriate financial support that is commensurate with the requirements imposed on farmers and the public goods they deliver. Strongly opposing views were expressed on the Commission proposal to reduce the disparities in the direct support level per hectare between member states and on voluntary coupled support.

During the Austrian presidency a first read-through was completed for all three proposals and technical and substantial amendments were suggested both in writing and orally during the Working Parties meetings.

Concerning the changes suggested by the presidency on the basis of delegations' positions, the vast majority concern the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation, in light of the political importance of issues such as the new delivery model and the performance-based approach.

Proposed changes to the draft CMO and Horizontal Regulations are less numerous and mostly meant to improve the current regimes from a technical and substantial point of view.

The Commission's proposals for a CAP reform worth €365 billion introduce a new delivery model under which member states will have more flexibility in how to use their funds and will be able to tailor-make their programmes. A single set of 9 EU-wide economic, environmental and social objectives will be identified at EU level and each member state will have to draw up a Strategic Plan covering the whole programming period, setting out how it intends to meet those objectives, using direct payments, market measures and rural development. The Commission will approve each plan to ensure consistency and the protection of the single market, and monitor progress towards the objectives and targets using a set of result indicators agreed at EU level.

The Commission proposals also outline new obligations and incentives for farmers at the front line of environment and climate action. Direct payments will be conditional on enhanced environmental and climate requirements and member states will have to offer eco-schemes to support farmers in going beyond the mandatory requirements, funded with a share of their national direct payments' allocations.

Moreover, the new CAP will more effectively target small and young farmers, thereby facilitating generational renewal, and will try to foster greater use of knowledge and innovation.

This item was discussed jointly with the 'Any other business' item on the interparliamentary conference 'The role of parliaments in shaping the future of food and farming' (see below).

Updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy

In public session the Council exchanged views on the EU Bioeconomy Strategy as recently updated by the Commission, and the role that the agricultural sector can play in it, on the basis of a set of presidency's questions:

- in your opinion, is the bioeconomy fully deploying its potential to create higher value for agriculture and forestry and to boost economic growth and employment, particularly in rural areas?
- in your opinion, are the 14 actions proposed by the updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy appropriate to fully unleash the bioeconomy's potential, particularly from the perspective of a primary producer? Are there further opportunities to be explored, including through interactions with pre-existing funds?

The bioeconomy comprises those parts of the economy that use renewable biological resources from land and sea to produce value-added products such as food, feed, materials and energy. In 2012 the Commission published its Bioeconomy Strategy and in 2017 started a review which led to the publication of an updated strategy on 11 October 2018.

All delegations took the floor and welcomed both the updated Strategy and the related Action Plan and gave a positive assessment of the role of agriculture and forestry.

They agreed that the bioeconomy can support the achievement of the EU environmental goals through sustainability and circularity, and can help boost economic growth and employment, particularly in rural areas and in relation to the use of natural resources and biomass.

Ministers considered that the potential of the EU's bioeconomy is not fully exploited yet and that the 14 actions proposed by the Commission in its updated Strategy may help to unleash such potential. They agreed that practical support, and not merely political guidelines, would be necessary to remove any barriers to the use of the bioeconomy, e.g. on the marketing of raw materials. Likewise, they considered that better communication of the bioeconomy's potential is crucial on both primary producers' and consumers' sides, as awareness of it is not sufficient yet.

They underlined that local actions are crucial to better take advantage of the bioeconomy's potential, but that at the same time a systemic approach should be adopted in order to fully exploit the complementarity of different policies and funds, particularly in the research field.

In this regard, adequate EU financing was considered to be essential to the development of the bioeconomy. The proposed allocation of funds foreseen by the Commission, particularly the EUR 100 million Circular bioeconomy thematic investment platform proposed in the action plan, was welcomed and considered as a positive step towards the streamlining of the bioeconomy.

This item was discussed jointly with the 'Any other business' item on the 'BIOEAST Conference: Bioeconomy in the forefront of national policies' (see below).

FISHERIES

2019 fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea

Next year the number of fish stocks managed at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels will rise to 59, and there will be additional protection for the European eel. At the same time EU fishermen in the Atlantic and the North Sea will be able to increase their catches of a number of healthy stocks.

After very intense negotiations, the Council reached agreement on 2019 catch limits for the main commercial fish stocks in the area. The agreement is based on a strong commitment to the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP): environmental, economic and social sustainability.

The Council decided in particular to increase catches for a number of stocks, including plaice in Skagerrak/Kattegat, the Southern hake stock, Western and Southern horse mackerel, cod, sole and plaice in the Irish Sea, and sole and megrim in the Bay of Biscay. Decreases were also agreed for some stocks.

The issue of choke species in mixed fisheries, i.e. species with a low quota that can cause a vessel to stop fishing even if it still has quota for other species, was addressed through enhanced inter-area and inter-species flexibility. Moreover, a new quota exchange mechanism was created for member states without a quota for by-catches in five fisheries: cod in the Celtic sea and west of Scotland, whiting in the Irish Sea and west of Scotland, and plaice in the south-western part of area 7.

The Council decided to further protect European eel by extending the mandatory closures agreed for 2018 to recreational fisheries and glass eel fisheries. These measures will cover brackish waters such as estuaries, coastal lagoons and transitional waters, and will ensure consistency with the measures on eel in the Mediterranean Sea.

Finally, concerning northern seabass, commercial fisheries will remain prohibited with some exceptions, taking into account the positive developments reflected in the scientific advice. It was decided that allowed catches would increase to 5.5 tonnes/vessel for hooks and line fishery, to 400kg for two months for trawlers, to 210kg for seines, and 1.4 tonnes per year for fixed gillnets.

For recreational fisheries the 'bag limit' stays at one fish per day, but for 7 months.

This regulation will be adopted through a written procedure, following finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts.

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Sandeel	EU waters of 2a, 3a and 4	207 650	0	-100%	0	-100%
Greater silver smelt	EU and int. waters of 1 and 2	90	90	0%	90	0%
Greater silver smelt	EU waters of 3 and 4	1 234	1 234	0%	1 234	0%
Greater silver smelt	EU and int. waters of 5, 6 and 7	4 661	4 661	0%	4 661	0%
Tusk	EU and int. waters of 1, 2 and 14	21	21	0%	21	0%
Tusk	3a	31	31	0%	31	0%
Tusk	EU waters of 4	251	251	0%	251	0%
Tusk	EU and int. waters of 5, 6 and 7	1 207	1 207	0%	1 207	0%
Tusk	Norwegian waters of 4	170	170	0	170	0
Boarfish	EU and int. waters of 6, 7 and 8	20 380	21 830	7%	21 830	7%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Herring	3a (directed)	41 768	25 415	-39%	29 326	-30%
Herring	EU and Norwegian waters of 4 north of 53° 30' N	359 977	230 782	-36%	230 782	-36%
Herring	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	1 239	886	-28%	886	-28%
Herring	3a (by-catches)	6 659	6 659	0%	6 659	0%
Herring	4, 7d and EU waters of 2a	9 669	13 190	36%	13 190	36%
Herring	4c, 7d (directed fishery)	66 040	42 324	-36%	42 324	-36%
Herring	EU and int. waters of 5b, 6b and 6aN(1)	4 170	4 170	-	4 170	-
Herring	6a(S), 7b, 7c	1 630	1 630	0%	1 630	0%
<i>Herring</i>	<i>6Clyde(1)</i>	To be	To be	-	To be	-

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
		established	established		established	
Herring	7a(1)	7 016	6 896	-2%	6 896	-2%
Herring	7e and 7f	930	930	0%	930	0%
Herring	7g(1), 7h(1), 7j(1) and 7k(1)	10 127	4 742	-53%	4 742	-53%
Anchovy	8	33 000	33 000	0%	33 000	0%
Anchovy	9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	12 500	0	Current TAC applies until 30 June 2019	0	Current TAC applies until 30 June 2019
Cod	Skagerrak	7 736	4 069	-47%	4 069	-47%
Cod	Kattegat	630	476	-24%	567	-10%
Cod	4; EU waters of 2a; that part of 3a not covered by the Skagerrak and	35 819	23 211	-35%	23 211	-35%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
	Kattegat					
Cod	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	382	382	0%	382	0%
Cod	6b (Rockall); EU and int. waters of 5b west of 12° 00' W and of 12 and 14	74	74	0%	74	0%
Cod	6a; EU and int. waters of 5b east of 12° 00' W	0	1 461	-	1 735	-
Cod	7a	695	807	16%	807	16%
Cod	7b, 7c, 7e-k, 8, 9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF	3 076	1 288	-58%	1 610	-48%
Cod	7d	1 733	1 715	-1%	1 715	-1%
Megrims	EU waters of 2a and 4	2 526	2 887	14%	2 887	14%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Megrims	EU and int. waters of 5b and 6-14	5 432	5 782	6%	5 782	6%
Megrims	7	12 310	18 132	47%	18 132	47%
Megrims	8abde	1 218	1 704	40%	1 704	40%
Megrims	8c, 9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	1 387	1 872	35%	1 872	35%
Anglerfish	EU waters of 2a and 4	16 225	20 237	25%	20 237	25%
Anglerfish	Norwegian waters of 4	1 700	1 700	0%	1 700	0%
Anglerfish	6; EU and int. waters of 5b; int. waters of 12 and 14	9 180	11 453	25%	11 453	25%
Anglerfish	7	33 516	32 999	-2%	32 999	-2%
Anglerfish	8abde	8 980	8 371	-7%	8 371	-7%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Anglerfish	8c, 9, 10, CECAF 34.1.1	3 955	4 166	5%	4 166	5%
Haddock	3a, EU waters of Subdivisions 22-32	2 461	1 706	-31%	1 706	-31%
Haddock	4; EU waters of 2a	32 461	22 591	-30%	22 591	-30%
Haddock	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	707	707	0%	707	0%
Haddock	EU and int. waters of 6b, 12 and 14	5 163	10 469	103%	10 469	103%
Haddock	5b, 6a	4 654	3 226	-31%	3 226	-31%
Haddock	7b-k, 8, 9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	6 910	5 937	-14%	8 329	20%
Haddock	7a	3 207	3 739	17%	3 739	17%
Whiting	3a	1 031	1 232	19%	1 232	19%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Whiting	4; EU waters of 2a	20 651	9 679	-53%	10 554	-49%
Whiting	6; EU and int. waters of 5b; int. waters of 12 and 14	213	937	340%	1 112	422%
Whiting	7a	80	612	665%	727	-
Whiting	7b-h, 7j, 7k	22 213	18 628	-16%	19 184	-14%
Whiting	8	2 540	2 540	0%	2 540	0%
Whiting and pollack	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	190	190	0%	190	0%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Northern hake - global TAC including all areas	overall northern TACs (3a / 2a and 4 / 5b, 6, 7, 12 and 14 / 8abde) <u>SPLIT BY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN ROWS BELOW</u>	111 785	141 160	26%	141 160	26%
Hake	3a, EU waters of subdivisions 22-32	3 136	4 286	37%	4 286	37%
Hake	2a and 4	3 653	4 994	37%	4 994	37%
Hake	5b, 6, 7, 12 and 14	62 536	79 762	28%	79 762	28%
Hake	8abde	42 460	52 118	23%	52 118	23%
Hake	8c, 9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	9 258	7 963	-14%	9 258	0%
Blue whiting	Norwegian waters of 2 and 4	0	0	0%	0	0%
Blue whiting	1 to 7, 8abde, 12, 14 (EC and Int.)	401 363	319 727	-20%	319 727	-20%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
	waters)					
Blue whiting	8c, 9, 10, CECAF 34.1.1	53 473	44 064	-18%	44 064	-18%
Blue whiting	EU waters of 2, 4a, 5, 6 north of 56°30' N and 7 west of 12°W	0	0	0%	0	0%
Lemon sole and witch flounder	2a and 4	6 391	7 874	23%	7 874	23%
Blue ling	EC and int. waters of 5b, 6, 7	10 463	11 378	-5%	11 378	-5%
Blue ling	int. waters of 12	286	229	-20%	229	-20%
Blue ling	EU and int. waters of 2 and 4	53	53	0%	53	0%
Blue ling	EU and int. waters of 3a	8	8	0%	8	0%
Ling	EU and int. waters of 1 and 2	36	36	0%	36	0%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Ling	3a	87	87	0%	170	95%
Ling	EU waters of 4	3 843	3 738	-3%	4 035	5%
Ling	EU and int. waters of 5	33	33	0%	33	0%
Ling	EU and int. waters of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14	12 696	12 196	-4%	12 196	-4%
Ling	Norwegian waters of 4	1 350	1 350	0%	1 350	0%
Norway lobster	3a	11 738	19 424	65%	13 733	17%
Norway lobster	EU waters of 2a and 4	24 518	22 103	-10%	22 103	-10%
Norway lobster	Norwegian waters of 4	800	600	-25%	600	-25%
Norway lobster	6; EU and int. waters of 5b	12 129	15 092	24%	15 092	24%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Norway lobster	7	29 091	19 784	-32%	19 784	-32%
<i>Norway lobster</i>	<i>7 - Porcupine Bank special condition</i>	2 734	2 645	-3%	2 645	-3%
Norway lobster	8abde	3 614	3 878	7%	3 878	7%
Norway lobster	8c	2	2	0%	2	0%
Norway lobster	9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	381	401	5%	401	5%
Northern prawn	3a	3 327	1 723	-48%	1 723	-48%
Northern prawn	EU waters of 2a and 4	1 957	1 566	-20%	1 566	-20%
Northern prawn	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	334	323	-3%	323	-3%
<i>Penaeus shrimps</i>	<i>French Guyana</i>	To be established	To be established	-	To be established	-

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Plaice	Skagerrak	15 036	16 446	9%	16 446	9%
Plaice	Kattegat	1 483	2 941	98%	1 705	15%
Plaice	4; EU waters of 2a; that part of 3a not covered by the Skagerrak and the Kattegat	104 758	92 531	-12%	92 531	-12%
Plaice	EU waters of 5b, 6, 12, 14	658	658	0%	658	0%
Plaice	7a	1 793	3 075	72%	3 075	72%
Plaice	7bc	74	74	0%	74	0%
Plaice	7de	10 360	10 116	-2%	10 354	0%
Plaice	7fg	511	1 608	215%	1 662	225%
Plaice	7hjk	128	92	-28%	109	-15%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Plaice	8, 9, 10, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	395	395	0%	395	0%
Pollack	6; EU and int. waters of 5b; int. waters of 12 and 14	397	397	0%	397	0%
Pollack	7	12 163	12 163	0%	12 163	0%
Pollack	8abde	1 482	1 482	0%	1 482	0%
Pollack	8c	231	231	0%	231	0%
Pollack	9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	282	282	0%	282	0%
Saithe	3a and 4; EU waters of 2a, 3b, 3c and Subdivisions 22-32	50 531	58 524	16%	58 524	16%
Saithe	6; EU and int. waters of 5b, 12 and	9 575	11 753	23%	12 693	33%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
	14					
Saithe	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	880	880	0%	880	0%
Saithe	7, 8, 9 and 10; EU waters of CEECAF 34.1.1	3 176	3 176	0%	3 176	0%
Turbot and brill	EU waters of 2a and 4	7 102	8 122	14%	8 122	14%
Skates and rays	EU waters of 2a and 4	1 654	1 654	0%	1 654	0%
Skates and rays	EU waters of 3a	47	42	-11%	47	0%
Skates and rays	EU waters of 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7e-k	9 699	9 596	-1%	10 184	5%
Skates and rays	7d	1 276	1 201	-5%	1 404	10%
Skates and rays	EU waters of 8 and 9	4 326	4 326	0%	4 759	10%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Undulate rays	EU waters of 7de			-36%	234	30%
Undulate rays	EU waters of 8	30	13	-57%	33	10%
Undulate rays	EU waters of 9	48	31	-35%	50	4%
Greenland halibut	EU waters of 2a and 4; EU and int. waters of 5b and 6	1 400	1 250	-11%	1 250	-11%
Mackerel	3a and 4; EU waters of 2a, 3b, 3c and Subdivisions 22-32	28 693	23 296	-19%	23 296	-19%
Mackerel	6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e; EU and int. waters of 5b; int. waters of 2a, 12 and 14	326 014	260 813	-20%	260 813	-20%
Mackerel	8c, 9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	37 305	29 844	-20%	29 844	-20%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Mackerel	Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a	12 803	10 242	-20%	10 242	-20%
Common sole	3a; EU waters of Subdivisions 22-24	448	502	12%	502	12%
Common sole	EU waters of 2a and 4	15 684	12 237	-22%	12 555	-20%
Common sole	6; EU and int. waters of 6b; int. waters of 12 and 14	57	57	0%	57	0%
Common sole	7a	40	414	935%	414	935%
Common sole	7bc	42	42	0%	42	0%
Common sole	7d	3 405	2 508	-26%	2 515	-26%
Common sole	7e	1 202	1 242	3%	1 242	3%
Common sole	7fg	920	841	-9%	841	-9%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Common sole	7hjk	382	382	0%	382	0%
Common sole	8ab	3 621	3 872	7%	3 872	7%
Sole	8c-e, 9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	1 072	1 072	0%	1 072	0%
Sprat	3a	24 627	24 627	0%	24 627	0%
Sprat	EU waters of 2a and 4	166 545	0	Current TAC still applies until 30 June 2019	0	Current TAC still applies until 30 June 2019
Sprat	7de	3 296	2 637	-20%	2 637	-20%
Picked dogfish	EU and intern. waters of 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 14	270 by-catch avoidance programme	270 by-catch avoidance programme	0%	270 by-catch avoidance programme	0%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Horse mackerel	EU waters of 4b, 4c and 7d	12 629	12 629	0%	12 629	0%
Horse mackerel	EU waters of 2a, 4a; 6, 7a-c,7e-k, 8abde; EU and intern. waters of 5b; intern. waters of 12 and 14	99 470	117 518	18%	117 518	18%
Horse mackerel	8c	16 000	18 858	18%	18 858	18%
Horse mackerel	9	55 555	94 017	69%	94 017	69%
<i>Horse mackerel</i>	<i>10, CECAF(Azores)</i>	To be established	To be established		To be established	
<i>Horse mackerel</i>	<i>CECAF(Madeira)</i>	To be established	To be established		To be established	
<i>Horse mackerel</i>	<i>CECAF(Canaries)</i>	To be established	To be established		To be established	

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Norway pout	3a; EU waters of 2a and 4	85 265	55 000	-35%	55 000	-35%
Norway pout	Norwegian waters of 4	0	pm	-	pm	-
Industrial fish	Norwegian waters of 4	800	800	0%	800	0%
Other species	EU waters of 5b, 6 and 7	Not relevant	280	-	280	-
Other species	Norwegian waters of 4	10 000	11 000	10%	11 000	10%
Other species	EU waters of 2a, 4 and 6a north of 56° 30' N	Not relevant	Not relevant	-	Not relevant	-
Herring	EU, Faroese, Norwegian and int. waters of 1 and 2	28 319	38 315	35%	38 315	35%
Cod	Norwegian waters of 1 and 2	23 008	21 518	-6%	21 518	-6%
Cod	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and	2 100	2 100	0%	2 100	0%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
	Greenland waters of 5, 12 and 14					
Cod	1 and 2b	28 690	26 805	-7%	26 805	-7%
Cod and haddock	Faroese waters of 5b	950	885	-7%	885	-7%
Grenadier	Greenland waters of 5 and 14	80	85	6%	85	6%
Grenadier	Greenland waters of NAFO 1	20	60	200%	60	200%
Capelin	2b	0	0	0%	0	0%
Capelin	Greenland waters of 5 and 14	0	0	0%	0	0%
Haddock	Norwegian waters of 1 and 2	1 200	1 100	-8%	1 100	-8%
Blue whiting	Faroese waters	2 500	2 500	0%	2 500	0%
Ling and blue ling	Faroese waters of 5b	2 000	1 885	-6%	1 885	-6%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Northern prawn	Greenland waters of 5 and 14	1 050	1 350	29%	1 350	29%
Northern prawn	Greenland waters of NAFO 1	2 600	2 800	8%	2 800	8%
Saithe	Norwegian waters of 1 and 2	2 550	2 550	0%	2 550	0%
Saithe	Int. waters of 1 and 2	0	0	0%	0	0%
Saithe	Faroese waters of 5b	2 800	2 600	-7%	2 600	-7%
Greenland halibut	Norwegian waters of 1 and 2	50	50	0%	50	0%
Greenland halibut	Int. waters of 1 and 2	900	900	0%	900	0%
Greenland halibut	Greenland waters of NAFO 1	1 925	1 925	0%	1 925	0%
Greenland halibut	Greenland waters of 5, 12 and 14	4 515	4 515	0%	4 515	0%
Redfish (shallow)	EU and int. waters of 5; int. waters	0	0	0%	0	0%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
pelagic)	of 12 and 14					
Redfish (deep pelagic)	EU and intern. waters of 5; intern. waters of 12 and 14	1 004	927	-8%	927	-8%
Redfish	Norwegian waters of 1 and 2	1 500	1 500	0%	1 500	0%
Redfish	Int. waters of 1 and 2	To be established	To be established	-	To be established	-
Redfish (pelagic)	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and Greenland waters of 5, 12 and 14	868	774	-11%	774	-11%
Redfish (demersal)	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and Greenland waters of 5 and 14	1 650	2 000	21%	2 000	21%
Redfish	Faroese waters of 5b	100	100	0%-	100	0%-
Other species (1)	Norwegian waters of 1 and 2	350	350	0%	350	0%

2019 EU TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA						
			COMMISSION PROPOSAL		COUNCIL AGREEMENT	
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT AREA	Final TAC 2018	TAC 2019 tonnes	TAC variation 2019-2018	TAC 2019	TAC variation 2019-2018
Other species (1)	Faroese waters of 5b	700	700	0%	700	0%
Flatfish	Faroese waters of 5b	50	50	0%	50	0%
Other (by-catch)	Greenland waters	750	1 050	40%	1 050	40%

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- *Outcome of the interparliamentary conference 'The role of parliaments in shaping the future of food and farming', Zagreb, 22-23 November 2018*

The Croatian delegation presented the results of the above-mentioned conference, which was organised by the Agriculture Committee of the Croatian parliament and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia. The conference gathered representatives of EU member states' national parliaments and the European Parliament, among others.

The conference was an opportunity to exchange views and make a concrete contribution to the debate on a new legislative framework for the Common Agricultural Policy in the forthcoming programming period.

- *Outcome of the conference 'BIOEAST Conference: Bioeconomy in the forefront of national policies', Budapest, 8 November 2018*

The Hungarian delegation informed the Council about the outcome of the above-mentioned high-level conference, which was organised jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as part of the Hungarian Science Festival on 8 November 2018. The conference focused on the situation of the bioeconomy and related challenges and opportunities in the BIOEAST macro-region.

BIOEAST is the central-eastern European initiative for knowledge-based agriculture, aquaculture and forestry in the bioeconomy. It offers a shared strategic research and innovation framework for working towards sustainable bioeconomies in the central and eastern European countries.

- ***Regulation amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards certain rules on direct payments and support for rural development in respect of the years 2019 and 2020***

In public session, the Commission informed the Council about its proposal for a regulation modifying rules on direct payments and rural development to guarantee a smooth transition between the current and the future CAP. The proposal is intended in particular to:

- allow for the continuation of the flexibility between pillars and the transfer of the estimated product of the reduction of payments (capping) in the calendar year 2020
- facilitate the phase out of payments for farmers in areas with natural constraints
- widen technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in order to prepare the future CAP

The Commission took the opportunity to emphasise that a timely adoption of this regulation is needed to avoid any disruption in payments in some member states.

- ***Outcome of the conference 'The development of Plant Proteins in the European Union – Opportunities and Challenges', Vienna, 22-23 November 2018***

The presidency informed the Council about the outcome of the above-mentioned conference, which was co-hosted by the Austrian Minister for Sustainability and Tourism, Ms Elisabeth Köstinger, and the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Phil Hogan.

The conference gathered around 200 experts from the agricultural supply chains for feed and food production, research and advisory networks, and national and regional administrations. The aim of the conference was to discuss the main findings of the European Commission's report on the development of plant proteins in the EU and on current plant protein production in the EU and its potential for further development.

In its intervention, the presidency stressed the importance of protein crops in terms of both human nutrition and animal feed, and discussed how plant protein production in Europe could help to increase the EU's self-sufficiency and contribute to mitigating climate change.

– ***Massive forest damage in Europe***

The presidency drew the attention of the Council to the massive forest fires that affected Europe in October 2018 as a consequence of an extraordinary heatwave, drought and heavy storm events. The presidency also took the opportunity to advocate a regulated exchange of knowledge and information in the framework of the EU Forest Strategy and the conclusion of legally binding agreements on forests in the pan-European region.

In this context, the Italian delegation also presented the effects of a recent storm on forests in northern Italy.

Many delegations called for improved cross-border cooperation and better use of EU tools to enhance the resilience of European forests.

– ***Difficult situation in the pigmeat market***

The Polish delegation informed the Council about the critical situation of the pigmeat market in Poland due to the combination of steeply decreasing prices and rising production costs. Poland also took the opportunity to request the activation of private storage aid for pigmeat and financial support for producers as part of exceptional measures.

While acknowledging the problems experienced by the Polish pigmeat sector, the Commission said it did not believe that there were grounds for activating exceptional EU measures.

– ***State of play of various legislative files in the field of agriculture***

The presidency informed the Council about the state of play of the following legislative procedures:

- unfair trading practices – five trilogues have taken place under the Austrian presidency and good progress has been achieved; an additional and possibly conclusive trilogue is in the process of being organised
- spirit drinks – a political agreement with the European Parliament has been achieved and adoption is expected in early spring 2019
- fertilisers – a political agreement with the European Parliament has also been achieved

– *Follow-up to the fipronil incident: state of play of implementation*

The Commission informed the Council about the various follow-up actions taken at EU level in the aftermath of the fipronil incident in the summer of 2017.

The Commission also touched on its draft implementing decision updating the general plan for crisis management in the field of food and feed safety. The plan is aimed at reinforcing cooperation and communication between the EU and member states and ensuring a harmonised approach during food incidents or crises; it should be adopted in the coming weeks.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

AGRICULTURE

Regulation amending general food law – general approach

The Council adopted a general approach on a draft regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain ([15559/18 ADD 1](#) + [ADD 1 COR 1](#) + [ADD 2](#)).

See press release: [More transparent scientific studies on food safety: Council agrees its position](#)

FISHERIES

2019-2020 fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks – adoption

The Council adopted a regulation fixing for 2019 and 2020 the fishing opportunities for Union fishing vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks ([14418/18](#)).

See press release: [Deep-sea fish stocks: agreement on catch limitations over 2019 and 2020](#)

2019 fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks in the Black Sea – adoption

The Council adopted a regulation fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in the Black Sea ([14292/18](#) + [COR 1](#)).

See press release: [Council adopts 2019 catch limits for Black Sea fisheries](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS**EUBAM Libya**

The Council adopted a decision mandating the EU integrated border management assistance mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya) to actively support the Libyan authorities in contributing to efforts to disrupt organised criminal networks involved in smuggling migrants, human trafficking and terrorism. The mission was previously mandated to plan for a future EU civilian mission while engaging with the Libyan authorities.

The mission's revised mandate will run until 30 June 2020. The Council also allocated a budget of €61.6 million for the period from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2020.

In order to achieve its objectives, EUBAM Libya provides capacity building in the areas of border management, law enforcement and criminal justice. The mission advises the Libyan authorities on the development of a national integrated border management strategy and supports capacity building, strategic planning and coordination among relevant Libyan authorities. The mission will also manage and coordinate projects related to its mandate.

EUBAM Libya responds to a request by the Libyan authorities and is part of the EU's comprehensive approach aimed at supporting the transition to a democratic, stable and prosperous Libya. The civilian mission cooperates closely with and contributes to the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

The mission's headquarters are located in Tripoli and the Head of Mission is Vincenzo Tagliaferri (from Italy).

[EUBAM Libya](#)

Sanctions in view of the situation in Libya

The Council amended the EU restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya, in line with a resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 5 November 2018.

The Council added refined petroleum products to the embargo on illicit oil exports from Libya. The measures now apply to vessels transporting petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products, illicitly exported from Libya. Member states are authorised to inspect vessels on the high seas and direct vessels to take appropriate actions to return petroleum to Libya.

The Council also amended the sanctions criteria to include perpetrators of sexual or gender-based violence. The EU imposes sanctions on individuals threatening the peace, stability or security of Libya, or obstructing the successful completion of its political transition. These sanctions consist of an asset freeze and a travel ban.

[EU-Libya relations](#)

Gender mainstreaming policies in the fight against small arms misuse

The Council adopted a decision in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda.

On 19 November 2018, the Council adopted a new EU strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, entitled 'Securing arms, protecting citizens'.

On 10 December 2018, the Council adopted conclusions welcoming the new EU strategic approach to WPS. This approach emphasises the need for systematic integration of a gender perspective into all fields and activities in the domain of peace and security, and in EU external actions in general.

[Securing arms, protecting citizens: Council adopts new EU strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, 19 November 2018](#)

[EU Statement – United Nations Security Council: Promoting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and Sustaining Peace through Women's Political and Economic Empowerment, 25 October 2018](#)

EUCAP Sahel Mali

The Council decided to extend the mandate of EUCAP Sahel Mali, as well as its budget, until 28 February 2019. The mission's mandate was previously due to expire on 15 January 2019.

EUCAP Sahel Mali is an EU civilian mission based in Bamako, Mali. It was launched on 15 January 2015 following an official invitation by the Malian government to assist the internal security forces with reasserting the government's authority over the whole of the country following the 'Northern Mali crisis'.

[EUCAP Sahel Mali](#)

Countering small arms and light weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Council adopted a decision in support of countering illicit proliferation and trafficking of small arms, light weapons (SALW) and ammunition and their impact in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the framework of the EU strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, entitled 'Securing arms, protecting citizens'.

[Securing arms, protecting citizens: Council adopts new EU strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, 19 November 2018](#)

[Small Arms and Light Weapons \(EEAS\)](#)

Operation Atalanta

The Council agreed that Operation Atalanta would be authorised to transfer information to Interpol and Europol – including personal data obtained under the existing legal framework – gathered on illegal activities other than piracy during the course of its counter-piracy operations, while the mandate of the mission remains unchanged.

The Council also amended its decision on Operation Atalanta in order to take into account the termination of the mandate of the UN Somalia and Eritrea monitoring group and the establishment of the UN panel of experts on Somalia with the same tasks in relation to Somalia.

EU NAVFOR Operation Atalanta contributes to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast. The operation is part of the EU's comprehensive approach for a peaceful, stable and democratic Somalia.

[EU Naval Force Operation Atalanta](#)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Luxembourg €2 commemorative coin

The Council took note of Luxembourg's intention to issue a €2 commemorative coin in 2019 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Grand Duchess Charlotte.

(14851/18)

TRADE**Agreements under article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)**

The Council adopted a decision approving agreements with Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei), Columbia, Cuba, Ecuador, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Switzerland and the United States on the necessary compensatory adjustments under Article XXI of GATS resulting from the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union.

Pursuant to article XX of the GATS, WTO members have to set out in a schedule the specific commitments which they undertake under the general agreement. The current schedule of the EU and its member states only covers commitments related to the 12 member states of 1994.

An update of the special commitments was therefore necessary in order to ensure that member states that joined the EU after 1994 are covered by limitations included in the list of specific commitments of the European Union and to ensure consistency with the *acquis communautaire*.

([14018/1/18 REV 1](#), [14019/18](#), [14020/18](#))

Trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment

The Council adopted a codified version of the regulation concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment ([PE-CONS 59/18](#)).

The new regulation codifies the successive amendments made to regulation [1236/2005](#).

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

Type-approval of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles

The Council approved the European Parliament's position on the proposed regulation, which adapts the rules on type-approval of a wide range of light motor vehicles with two, three or four wheels to take account of the latest scientific data.

The regulation is therefore adopted as set out in [PE-CONS 65/18](#).

Classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures

The Council decided not to object to a Commission regulation concerning amendments to the annexes of regulation (EC) No [1272/2008](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. It can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

TRANSPORT

Trans-European transport network guidelines – update of annexes

The Council decided not to object to a Commission delegated regulation on the adaptation of annex III to regulation (EU) No [1315/2013](#) containing Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) ([14862/18](#), [14245/18](#) + [14245/18 ADD 1 - ADD 6](#)).

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the act can enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects to it.
