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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 **(first reading)**

- Adoption of the legislative act
- Statements

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**Statement by the Commission on 'best available scientific advice'**

As regards 'best available scientific advice', the Commission underlines that the current practice is to accept only the scientific advice issued or reviewed by an independent scientific body recognised at Union or international level, such as the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) or the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

The Commission could explore the possibility to propose in the future a definition of 'best available scientific advice'.

**Statement by the Commission on the amendment of Annex I of the MAP**  
**(inclusion of depth intervals as a criteria for the segmentation of the fishing effort)**

In the context of the evaluation of the Plan, five years after its entry into force, different scenarios could be envisaged for its revision, including the introduction in Annex I of other criteria designing the effort segmentation, such as depth intervals for the stocks concerned stipulated in Article 7(1) and the prohibition to increase capacity stipulated in Article 9(5) of the plan. Any such revision will depend on the best available scientific advice.

**Statement of the Commission on regional cooperation**

The Commission will, on behalf of the European Union, continue its efforts in order to adopt conservation measures within the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in order to ensure the sustainable exploitation of shared stocks in the Mediterranean, in accordance with the MedFish4Ever Declaration of 2017.

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