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## DECLASSIFICATION

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dated: 14 October 1997

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Subject: Preparation of annual fisheries consultations with Estonia, Latvia and  
Lithuania

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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

11211/97

RESTREINT

PECHE 298

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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of: Working Party on External Fisheries Policy

dated: 8 October 1997

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**Subject:** Preparation of annual fisheries consultations with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

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1. The Commission representative set out the following timetable for the forthcoming negotiations for fisheries agreements with the Baltic States:
  - Lithuania, 15-17 October, Brussels
  - Latvia, 23-24 October, Riga
  - Estonia, 3-4 November, Brussels
  
2. The Commission would aim to retain this year's quotas at the same level for next year. This might prove difficult in the case of cod, however, given the overall reduction in the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for cod agreed in the International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission (IBSFC) at its 23rd session held in September this year. In any event, the Commission would endeavour to obtain the appropriate tonnage of what has come to be known as "compensation cod".
  
3. The Danish, German, Finnish and Swedish delegations endorsed the Commission's line on maintaining the quotas at the present level and accepted, albeit reluctantly, that some reduction in the cod quota might prove necessary. The Danish delegation considered that any such reduction should be balanced by a corresponding reduction in the number of licences issued and in reciprocal access.

4. Both the Danish and Swedish delegations stressed the importance of obtaining the "compensation cod". The Swedish delegation entered a general reservation, pointing out that all the elements of an overall package would have to be examined before it could endorse an agreement.
5. The Danish delegation asked the Commission to introduce greater flexibility in the licensing system with effect from 1 January 1998, pointing out that this request had already been made by the four States in the Baltic Sea. The German, Finnish and Swedish delegations supported this request, the Finnish delegation seeking greater flexibility also in the arrangements for reciprocal access.
6. The Danish delegation asked the Commission to raise with the IBSFC the question of extending the Summer ban on the cod fishery - a measure agreed at the IBSFC's 23rd session - to all fisheries, pointing out that there was a likelihood of control problems with by-catches of cod in the fisheries for species other than cod. The Swedish delegation endorsed this request. The German delegation entered a reservation on this specific issue.
7. The Commission representative noted these comments and indicated that coordination for each of these negotiations would take place on the spot.