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DECLASSIFICATION

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dated: 28 January 1997

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Subject: **Preparation of the EU/Argentina Joint Committee Meeting
28 January 1997**

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

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

5083/97

RESTREINT

PECHE 8

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from: Working Party on External Fisheries Policy

dated: 24 January 1997

No. prev. doc.: 9272/96 PECHE 285

Subject : **Preparation of the EU/Argentina Joint Committee Meeting
28 January 1997**

1. The Commission representative informed delegations about the fifth Joint Committee Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 28 January 1997⁽¹⁾.
2. The provisional agenda⁽²⁾ would address, among other things, issues which had not been settled during the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee in October 1996, i.e. minimum sizes of hake and conditions governing exports.

Examination of new joint ventures and joint enterprises

⁽¹⁾The Joint Committee Meeting will be preceded by a technical meeting with the Argentinian party concentrating on current scientific programmes.

⁽²⁾This provisional agenda was circulated at the meeting of the Working Party.

3. The Commission representative pointed out that the Argentinian authorities had indicated that they were not ready to undertake such an examination and intended to await a review of the state of stocks in respect of which fishing activities had been undertaken in the framework of the EC/Argentina Agreement.

4. The Spanish delegation took the view that this review should not serve as a pretext for delaying in any way the implementation of the Agreement.

Other specific issues

5. The Portuguese delegation referred to a series of problems which had been encountered in the launching of an approved joint venture project. A Portuguese vessel had been halted by the Argentinian authorities for reasons connected with the Customs treatment of imported products (in particular the issue of the origin of these products); this delegation expressed its regret that the lack of clarity on those issues prevented its project from operating, and urged the Community delegation participating in this Joint Committee Meeting to seek a quick solution to this issue.

6. The United Kingdom delegation asked whether failure to agree on MAGPs IV during the December 1996 Council would affect the funding of joint ventures and joint enterprises undertaken under the EC/Argentina Agreement.

7. The Commission representative explained that specific budgetary appropriations for joint ventures and joint enterprises had been earmarked for this Agreement.

Cooperation in South-West Atlantic

8. In respect of cooperation and conservation of resources in the South-West Atlantic⁽³⁾, the Chairman of the Working Party pointed out that the draft negotiating directive was still under examination by the Council and that the Joint Committee Meeting of the EC/Argentina Fisheries Agreement was not the appropriate body for discussion on that matter. The Spanish and Portuguese delegations shared that view.
9. The Commission representative agreed. She specified, however, that the Community's sole objective would be to elicit, at the Joint Committee meeting, a political reaction to the latest developments on this issue, i.e. following discussions between the United Kingdom and the Argentinian authorities as regards the establishment of a multilateral regime in the South Atlantic.
10. The United Kingdom delegation, whilst recalling the sensitive political nature of these discussions, confirmed that an approach had been agreed between the United Kingdom and the Argentinian party to advance the issue, in particular in respect of participation in a future regional fisheries regime in the area. This approach would follow the model of participation in CCAMLR where the Community and some Member States attend in their own right.
11. In response to those observations, the Commission representative indicated that the form of participation in a multilateral regime would be discussed at a later stage when the issue of the draft negotiating directive was taken up by the Council bodies.
12. The Spanish delegation also stressed the importance of a multilateral approach to the issue of management of high seas fishing in this area, in particular as regards the conservation of straddling stocks. This delegation expressed its concern at an Argentinian legislative proposal relating to the management of straddling stocks migrating inside or outside the Argentinian Exclusive Economic Zone.

⁽³⁾ See doc. 7269/96 PECHÉ 175.

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