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PECHE 225

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Working Party on Fisheries Policy of 18 July 2024
I. IATTC
II. EU-GUINEA BISSAU SFPA
III. CCAMLR
IV. EU-SAO TOME E PRINICIPE SFPA
V. EU-COOK ISLANDS SFPA
VI. EU-UK TCA
VII. EU-UK SCF
VIII. NAFO
IX. AOB

I. 102nd Annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (2-6 September 2024, Panama City (Panama))

- *Examination of the Presidency compromise*
- 1. The Presidency presented the compromise as prepared in doc. ST 12157/24 regarding the preparation for the IATTC 102nd Annual Meeting which takes place from 2 to 6 September in Panama City.
- 2. The Commission services representative expressed its support for the Presidency compromise.
- 3. One delegation intervened also expressing its agreement with the text.

4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had agreed on doc. ST 12157/24 and that therefore the IATTC 102nd Annual Meeting was prepared.

II. EU-Guinea Bissau SFPA

- a) Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Implementing Protocol (2024-2029) to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
 - *Presentation and examination of the proposal*
 - b) Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Implementing Protocol (2024-2029) to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
 - *Presentation and examination of the proposal*
 - c) Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION on the allocation of fishing opportunities under the Implementing Protocol (2024-2029) to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
 - *Presentation and examination of the proposal*
1. The Commission services representative presented the proposals in relation to the above-mentioned SFPA.
 2. The Council Legal Service representative presented the suggested modifications to the text of the two Decisions with regard to the legal basis and the notification procedure.
 3. Several delegations intervened with various comments and questions. Two delegations raised two issues in the text of the protocol itself, whereas three delegations highlighted the importance of quick adoption of the Council Decisions and Regulation so that fishing can resume. One delegation introduced a parliamentary scrutiny reserve.
 4. The Commission services representative announced that the Commission would submit two statements with regard to changes as suggested by the Council Legal Service. She also replied to questions in relation to the substance of the protocol, adding that they were awaiting a reply from Guinea Bissau on a certain matter in the text of the protocol.
 5. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had examined the proposals in relation to the renewal of the protocol with Guinea Bissau and had taken note of the comments by delegations and the Council Legal Service. The Presidency added that a written consultation would be launched the following week after receipt of the reply of Guinea Bissau.

III. 43rd Annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (14-25 October 2024, Hobart (Australia))

- *Examination of the Presidency compromise*
- 1. The Presidency presented the compromise, as set out in ST 12190/24.
- 2. Three delegations intervened to express support for the compromise.
- 3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had approved the compromise and that therefore the CCAMLR annual meeting had been prepared.

IV. Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union on a new implementing protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, and possible amendments to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement or a new text of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement

- *Presentation and examination of the recommendation*
- 1. The Commission services representatives presented the recommendation (doc. 12253/24 + ADD 1-3), setting out the expected timeline for the negotiations and salient issues.
- 2. The Council Legal Service representative suggested the addition of Article 43 TFEU to the legal basis of the decision.
- 3. Five delegations intervened with comments, and the Commission services representative announced that the Commission would make a statement regarding the legal basis.
- 4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had examined the recommendation and taken note of the comments made by the Council Legal Service and by delegations. It had approved the text as thus amended, which, once finalised by the lawyer-linguists, would be submitted to Coreper on 4 September and to the Council for adoption by written procedure.

V. Joint committee meeting under the EU-Cook Islands SFPA protocol (last week of August 2024, Panama)

– *Preparation*

1. The Commission services representative briefed the Working Party ahead of the joint committee meeting.
2. One delegation intervened, saying they would confirm in due course whether they would attend the meeting.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and of the comments made by one delegation. The joint committee meeting had thus been prepared.

VI. Notifications under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

– *Information from the Commission*

1. The Commission services representative gave an overview of UK notifications received in the proceeding 12 months and on upcoming initiatives.
2. Three delegations took the floor to express their views on different UK fisheries measures.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the presentation by the Commission and the comments by delegations.

VII. 8th Working group under the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Fisheries (31 July 2024)

– *Preparation*

1. The Commission services representative explained the progress achieved on various topics in the framework of the working group under the SCF and addressed the list of topics that features on the draft agenda of the next meeting of that working group.
2. One delegation addressed questions to the Commission services, to which the representative of those services responded.

3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had examined the draft agenda of the 8th working group under the SCF and had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and the questions by one delegation. The Presidency noted that the Working Party agreed with the draft agenda and that the meeting was therefore prepared.

VIII. Reopening of cod 2J3KL fishery ‘Northern cod’ in NAFO

- *Information from the Commission*
- 1. The Commission services representative briefed delegations on the reopening of the Northern cod fishery by Canada and the consequent process to be followed as regards the NAFO part of the fishery.
- 2. Several delegations intervened with comments and questions, to which the Commission services representative responded.
- 3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and the comments made by delegations. It would revert to the matter in the run-up to the NAFO annual meeting in September.

IX. Any other business

- EU-Norway High Level Dialogue on fisheries and ocean governance
 - *Information from the Commission*
- 1. The Commission services representatives reported on the establishment of a high-level dialogue with Norway and the main issues discussed at the first meeting. They said a second meeting was envisaged for September 2024, and emphasised that the dialogue would not replace the normal channels of communication with Norway on fisheries and ocean governance matters.
- 2. Several delegations intervened with comments and questions, to which the Commission services representatives responded.
- 3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and the comments made by delegations.