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PECHE 226

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Working Party on Fisheries Policy of 12 September 2024

- I. NAFO 46TH ANNUAL MEETING
- II. TAC AMENDMENT (3RD)
- III. GFCM 47TH ANNUAL MEETING
- IV. FAO SUB-COMMITTEE - AQUACULTURE
- V. EU-CÔTE D'IVOIRE SFPA
- VI. EU-SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE SFPA
- VII. EU-GREENLAND SFPA
- VIII. AOB

I. 46th annual meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) (23-27 September 2024, Halifax)

– *Preparation*

1. The Working Party confirmed its agreement on the Commission services' non-paper (doc. 12890/24), as presented on 5 September.

II. Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) 2024/257 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities

– *Examination*

1. The Commission services representative outlined certain technical corrections that would need to be made to the above-mentioned Commission proposal.

2. Delegations that intervened could generally accept the corrections. One delegation, supported by others, recalled its difficulty with the proposal related to anchovy. Delegations also generally opposed the proposed prohibition on quota swaps.
3. The Council Legal Service representative intervened regarding the relevance of socio-economic considerations when taking into account the scientific advice. He also commented on the proposal of the Commission to restrict the possibility for Member States to conduct quota exchanges.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had continued its examination of the proposal. He said that a Presidency compromise containing the corrections would be issued shortly and then placed under written consultation, while the provisions related to anchovy would be discussed at the Coreper meeting the following week.

III. 47th GFCM Annual Session (4 - 8 November 2024, Rome)

- *Preparation*
 - *Draft declaration of competences*
1. The Commission service representative presented the main lines of the EU position for the 47th Annual Session of the GFCM as set out in a non-paper (doc. ST 13088/24). She also presented the draft declaration of competences (doc. ST 13101/24).
 2. On the non-paper, delegations that intervened thanked the Commission for their preparatory work and could generally support the document. One delegation said that they would send written comments.
 3. On the declaration of competence, delegations that intervened said that they would send in their remarks in writing.
 4. The Presidency invited delegations to submit written comments by 16 September at noon for both documents and said that the Working Party would revert to this matter at another meeting.

IV. FAO Sub-Committee on fish trade: FAO guidance on social responsibility in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains (aquaculture) – Draft common position

– Preparation

1. The Commission services representative presented the draft common position (doc. 13091/24), highlighting the deadline of 20 September for its submission to the FAO.
2. Four delegations signalled scrutiny reservations, on account of the late submission of the document.
3. The Commission services representative provided additional clarifications and asked for member states to provide any possible feedback in time for the Working Party meeting of 19 September.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the Commission's presentation, and would revert to the matter on 19 September. He announced a deadline of 16 September for the submission of written comments.

V. Ongoing negotiations for a new Protocol to the EU-Côte d'Ivoire SFPA

– Information by the Commission

1. The Commission services representative informed the Working Party on the latest developments in the negotiations over the summer.
2. One delegation requested a clarification on the treatment of the social clause in the ongoing negotiations with Côte d'Ivoire to which the Commission services representative replied.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party has been informed on the state of play of negotiations for the new SFPA protocol with Côte d'Ivoire.

VI. First round of negotiations for a new protocol under the EU-São Tomé and Príncipe SFPA

– Preparation

1. The Commission services representative presented in broad lines the planning ahead for the negotiating rounds with São Tomé and Príncipe.

2. Several delegations expressed support for the upcoming negotiations while one delegation made a remark that the supporting document for the preparation of the first round of negotiations had not reached the Working Party yet.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Commission services representative was expected to send the document for the preparation of the negotiating round to the Working Party as soon as it was ready.

VII. Second round of negotiations for the EU-Greenland Fisheries Protocol

- *Preparation*
 1. The Commission services representative briefed the Working Party ahead of the second round of negotiations, to be held in Brussels on 18 and 19 September, emphasising the need for a balanced agreement and noting that it would likely be the concluding round. The negotiations might continue until 20 September if necessary. The Commission services would hold a preparatory meeting with stakeholders and technical meeting with member states on 16 September.
 2. Four delegations intervened with comments and questions, to which the Commission services representative responded.
 3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had prepared the negotiations, emphasising the need for efficient EU coordination.

VIII. Any other business

- *FAO PSMA Regional Coordination Meeting for Europe (London, 23-27 September 2024) - Information by the Commission*
 1. The Commission services representative briefed the Working Party ahead of the meeting, to be held at NEAFC HQ in London. The Commission services would hold a technical meeting with member states on 18 September to prepare.
 2. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission.
- *Informal consultations on the UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution (New York, 11-18 November 2024) - Information by the Commission*

1. The Commission services representative briefed the Working Party ahead of this year's informal consultations. He called on delegations to provide as soon as possible any feedback on the Commission services' first table for proposals on the draft UNGA resolution, enabling the Working Party to revert to the matter on 19 September with consolidated EU proposals for the consultations.
 2. Two delegations intervened with comments, including as concerns the timeline for the consolidated text, to which the Commission services representative responded.
 3. The Presidency asked delegations to submit any comments as soon as possible, and confirmed that the Working Party would revert to the matter on 19 September.
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