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CM 1393/21

PECHE
PROCED

COMMUNICATION

WRITTEN PROCEDURE

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Subject:	Preparation of the bilateral EU-UK consultations on fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022
	- Initial guidance
	- Approval
	= END OF WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Delegations are herewith informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 1390/21 of 27 January 2021 was successfully completed on 29 January 2021 at 16:00 and that all delegations agreed to the adoption of the initial guidance as set out in doc. 5543/21.

Therefore, the above Council initial guidance is adopted.

The statement by Belgium, France, Poland and Spain is reproduced in the Annex to this CM. The above statement will be included in the summary of acts adopted by the written procedure as statement to be entered in the Council minutes, in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

The Council Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank delegations and the Commission for their kind cooperation.

ANNEX

Statement by Belgium, France, Poland and Spain:

Ministerial statement on bilateral EU-UK consultations on fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022

The Ministers responsible for fisheries of Belgium, France, Poland and Spain hereby affirm their commitment to the Common Fisheries Policy, and in particular to the maximum sustainable yield, the landing obligation, multi-annual plans and the taking into account of best scientific advices.

They consider, in accordance with their statements at the informal meeting of 25 January 2021, that additional guarantees must be given by the Commission to negotiate TACs for stocks shared with the United Kingdom.

As the stakes of these negotiations are high for fishermen, given the TAC reductions foreseen by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement until 2026, the socio-economic aspects should not be neglected. A balance must therefore be found to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the resource, while ensuring the sustainability of the activities for the communities that depend on it.

The context of mixed fisheries, the ICES advice of 0 catch and the “choke species” effect, in particular, should be given due consideration by the European Commission.

Ministers therefore urge the Commission to take into account the positions expressed by Member States and in particular the priorities expressed on stocks at the meeting on 25 January 2021.

In terms of methodology, Ministers call for the implementation of the following measures:

- the close involvement of Member States at all stages of the negotiations, through the close involvement of all existing channels and especially the working party and the expert level, but also through systematic *in situ* consultations before and during negotiations sessions ;
- decisions must be made at Council level whenever necessary and systematically when the socioeconomic consequences of the changes foreseen could affect the balance of coastal activities or communities.