



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 23 February 2021
(OR. en)**

5786/21

**PECHE 36
N 16**

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations with the Kingdom of Norway for a new Agreement on fisheries between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2021/...

of ...

**authorising the opening of negotiations with the Kingdom of Norway
for a new Agreement on fisheries
between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43 in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas,

- (1) The relations between the Union and Norway in the area of fisheries are based on the Agreement on fisheries between the the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway (the 'Agreement on fisheries'), which was signed on 27 February 1980 and entered into force on 16 June 1981.¹
- (2) In the framework of the negotiations on the European Economic Area (EEA) an additional Agreement relating to the Agreement on fisheries was negotiated and entered into force on 1 January 1994. That additional Agreement is part of the overall balance of the results of the EEA negotiations and an essential element for the approval by the Community of the EEA Agreement.²
- (3) In accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement on fisheries, after an initial period of 10 years that Agreement is automatically extended for additional periods of 6 years. The most recent extension period started in 2015.
- (4) The Agreement on fisheries covers the North Sea, Skagerrak and the North East Atlantic, and allows for the setting of total allowable catches for joint stocks, transfers of fishing possibilities, joint technical measures and issues relating to control and enforcement.

¹ Agreement on fisheries between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway (OJ L 226, 29.8.1980, p. 48).

² Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway relating to the Agreement on fisheries between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway (OJ L 346, 31.12.1993, p. 26).

- (5) Norway has indicated its desire to replace the Agreement on fisheries in the light of the significant impact that the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union is expected to have on the shared management of stocks in the North East Atlantic. Following the transition period for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union, which ended on 31 December 2020, stocks are to be covered by either bilateral or trilateral Agreements. The stocks inhabiting waters that fall under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, Norway and the Union will be subject to a separate trilateral Agreement. In the light of Norway's desire to replace the Agreement on fisheries, a new bilateral Agreement will be required in respect of the stocks inhabiting waters that fall solely under the jurisdiction of Norway and the Union.
- (6) In accordance with Article 63(1) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea¹ and considering the overall relations between the Union and Norway, it is important to maintain cooperation on responsible fisheries in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine living resources.
- (7) Negotiations should therefore be opened with a view to concluding a new bilateral Agreement on fisheries with Norway,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and of the Agreement on the implementation of Part XI thereof (OJ L 179, 23.6.1998, p. 3).

Article 1

1. The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations for a new Agreement on fisheries with the Kingdom of Norway.
2. The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the negotiating directives of the Council set out in the addendum to this Decision.

Article 2

The negotiations shall be conducted in consultation with the Council Working Party on External Fisheries Policy.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President
