



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 5 March 2021

CM 1868/21

PECHE
UK
PROCED

COMMUNICATION

WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Contact:	LIFE.fisheries@consilium.europa.eu
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Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the Union in the consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on fishing opportunities for shared stocks for 2021 and, for certain deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022 - Adoption = END OF WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Delegations are herewith informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 1867/21 on 3 March 2021, was successfully completed on 5 March 2021 at 15:00 and that all delegations voted in favour of the adoption of the above-mentioned Council Decision set out in document 6414/21 PECHE 65 UK 54.

The required qualified majority has been reached. **Therefore, the above Council Decision is adopted.**

The statement by Belgium, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, 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.

Statement by Belgium, France, Ireland, Poland, The Netherlands and Spain on bilateral EU-UK consultations 2021

We thank the Presidency for the revised proposal for a Council Decision concerning the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on total allowable catches for 2021 and for certain deep sea stocks for 2021 and 2022, which fully reflects the views expressed by Fisheries Ministers at the VTC of 22 February.

We are all acutely aware of the complexities and difficulties involved in these novel consultations and appreciate the work of the Presidency for their lead during this first exercise and the Commission in keeping Member States fully involved. We also want to highlight the enormous importance of reaching an agreement that protects the interests of the European Union and our fishing sectors and in particular, one that guarantees a level playing field for all. We consider that the exceptional circumstances of the 2021 annual consultations cannot set a precedent for future years.

Given the importance of these consultations for the European Union, the Member States and the fishing industry, starting with the fishing opportunities for 2022, the preparations for the bilateral consultations with the United Kingdom should follow a more normal process, . This should include a concrete Union position, agreed at the Council, with more detailed figures for the proposed fishing opportunities for each stock that should be validated at ministerial level before the start of negotiations.