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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 23-24 June 2025: Implementation of the Fisheries Control Regulation - Information from the Commission

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FISHERIES CONTROL REGULATION

INFORMATION NOTE

The revised fisheries control Regulation (“the Regulation”) was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 22 November 2023 ⁽¹⁾, creating the framework for a solid and modern EU fisheries control system.

The Commission underlines the importance of this Regulation in achieving the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), ensuring the sustainability of the EU’s fisheries resources, advancing in terms of modernisation and simplification, particularly through digitalisation, and securing a level playing field for operators and Member States and across sea basins.

The implementation of the Regulation plays out over several years and requires close collaboration between the Commission and Member States.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006 and (EC) No 1005/2008 and Regulations (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2017/2403 and (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control.

While the co-legislators have entrusted the Commission with the adoption of a number of implementing and delegated acts, it is the responsibility of Member States to implement the new rules at national level. Consistent and timely implementation of the new rules across Member States, sea basins, and fisheries is essential to build trust in the new fisheries control system and to ensure that it can effectively achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

As regards the preparation of the implementing and delegated acts, the Commission is working in full transparency and close collaboration with Member States' authorities and in particular with their fisheries control experts. The objective is to implement the regulation while making fisheries control more efficient, simple, and digitalised, limiting and where possible reducing administrative burdens, ensuring robust enforcement and fair competition across the EU and achieving the level of ambition established by the Regulation.

The inclusive approach of the Commission seeks to balance technical requirements with feasibility for operators and national administrations, while also ensuring effective monitoring and compliance. Exchanges at technical level with Member States have been productive, and the strong engagement with national experts, coupled with full transparency, is crucial to ensure feasibility, acceptance, and a shared understanding of the rules.

The Commission underlines its efforts to directly support Member States in the implementation of the Regulation. For example, new digital tools are being developed at EU level to support the reporting obligations for recreational and small-scale fisheries. Additionally, the Commission is conducting a feasibility study on traceability for processed and preserved fisheries products, aimed at identifying realistic and effective implementation measures.

Finally, the Commission emphasises the financial support available under the EU budget, particularly through the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), to support the implementation of the new rules and to strengthen national fisheries control systems. Notably, fisheries control-related infrastructure and reform costs are eligible for funding under Member States' EMFAF national programmes. Investments in digitalisation, modern control technologies, and enforcement capacity are critical.