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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 23-24 June 2025: Atlanto-Scandian herring - Information from Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden

Atlanto-Scandian herring

Information from Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden

Sweden, Ireland, and the Netherlands recall that several important issues in fisheries policy remain unsolved between the EU and Norway, inter alia the acceptance of Norway of the EU as a coastal state and of EU's historic quota for Atlanto-Scandian herring. The lack of a comprehensive sharing arrangements of the Coastal States for wide-spread pelagic stocks in the North-East Atlantic (mackerel, blue whiting, Atlanto-Scandian herring) are also causes for concern for the long-term sustainability of the concerned fish stocks.

Sweden, Ireland, and the Netherlands furthermore recall the sharing agreement in 2007 for Atlanto-Scandian herring in which the EU decreased its share from 8.38 percent to 6.51 percent to the advantage of Norway provided that access to Norwegian waters would be provided. The aforementioned Member States noted that no such access had been agreed for 2025 and that Norway has increased its quota share for Atlanto-Scandian herring unilaterally since the sharing agreement in 2007. At the same time, Norway enjoys tariff-free exports to the EU for this species. This is directly competing with the EU-fleet, at the same time as the EU-fleet faces higher costs for its own uptake.

The aforementioned Member States encourage the Commission to continue its efforts in urging Norway to return to a constructive cooperation with the European Union in fisheries matters and to work towards tangible results that resolve outstanding issues, e.g. for Atlanto-Scandian herring. The Commission should also, as appropriate, consider the identification and the adoption of measures regarding third countries which fail to cooperate and that allow unsustainable fishing of a stock of common interest for the Union in line with the foreseen amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012.
