

Brussels, 29 January 2026
(OR. en)

16713/25
PV CONS 70
AGRI 703
PECHE 448
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
11 and 12 December 2025

MEETING ON THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2025

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 16295/25.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list

16532/25

The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

A statement to this item is set out in the Addendum.

b) Legislative list (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

16534/25

General Affairs

1. Regulation amending Regulations (EU) 2015/1017, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695 and (EU) 2021/1153 as regards increasing the efficiency of the EU guarantee under Regulation (EU) 2021/523 and simplifying reporting requirements



16085/25

PE-CONS 40/25
SIMPL

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 10.12.2025

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Articles 172, 173, 175, third paragraph, 182(1), 183, 188, second paragraph, and 194 TFEU).

FISHERIES

Non-legislative activities

3. **Council Regulation fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea**  15861/25
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Article 43(3) TFEU)
Political agreement

The Council reached a political agreement on the Regulation fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

4. **Council Regulation fixing for 2026 the fishing opportunities in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas**  15862/1/25 REV 1
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Article 43(3) TFEU)
Political agreement

The Council reached a political agreement on the Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2026.

AGRICULTURE

Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

5. **The Common Agricultural Policy after 2027: Innovation and simplification**  15906/25
Policy debate

Item 5 was taken together with item 6a).

The Council held a policy debate.

The Council also took note of the information from the Presidency concerning the state of play of the proposals related to the future Common Agricultural Policy.

Any other business

6. Agriculture

- a) **Current legislative proposal (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)** ☐☐

**The Common Agricultural Policy after 2027:
state of play**
Information from the Presidency

16453/25

Item 6 a) was taken together with item 5.

- b) **Meeting of CAP Directors
(Copenhagen, 1-3 October 2025)** ☐ 16474/25
Information from the Presidency

- c) **58th Conference of Directors of EU Paying Agencies
(Copenhagen, 19-21 November 2025)** ☐ 16473/25
Information from the Presidency

Items 6 b) and c) were taken together.

The Council took note of the information from the Presidency on the outcome of the meeting of the CAP Directors and on the outcome of the Conference of Directors of EU paying agencies.

- d) **Critical situation on the European milk market** ☐ 16448/25
Information from Hungary

The Council took note of the information from Hungary. The Council also took note of delegations' reactions.

MEETING ON FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2025

FISHERIES

Non-legislative activities

3. (continuation) Council Regulation fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea (Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Article 43(3) TFEU) ☐(*) 15861/25
Political agreement

See page 3.

4. (continuation) Council Regulation fixing for 2026 the fishing opportunities in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas (Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Article 43(3) TFEU) ☐(*) 15862/1/25 REV 1
Political agreement

See page 3.

Any other business

7. Fisheries

- a) Current legislative proposals (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union) ☐☐
- i) Establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Ocean Pact and of the Union maritime and aquaculture policy 2028-2034: state of play 16147/25
Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information from the Presidency on the state of play of the Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Ocean Pact and of the Union maritime and aquaculture policy 2028-2034.

Agriculture

ii) **Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operation: state of play** 16443/25
Information from the Presidency

b) **Outcome of the High-Level Conference on Welfare of Farm Animals in the EU of 2050 (Brussels, 1 December 2025)** [2] 16559/25
Information from the Presidency

Item 7 a) ii) was taken together with item 7 b).

The Council took note of the information from the Presidency on the state of play of the Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operation and on the outcome of the High-Level Conference on Welfare of Farm Animals in the EU of 2050.

c) **Maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements and fortified foods are indispensable** [2] 15839/25
Information from Germany, supported by Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

The Council took note of the information provided by Germany, supported by Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, and of the comments of other delegations.



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

(*)

Item on which a vote may be requested

Statements to the legislative "B" items set out in doc. 16295/25

Ad "B" item 3:
Council Regulation fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Article 43(3) TFEU)
Political agreement

STATEMENT BY BELGIUM, DENMARK, ESTONIA, SPAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, IRELAND, LITHUANIA, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, PORTUGAL AND SWEDEN on the application of Article 15(9) in the Basic Regulation in 2026

“Given that for:

- **EU only TACs:** COD/03AS.; NEP/8CU25; SOL/3ABC24; RNG/03-; SBR/09S-3411;
- **EU-UK TACs:** SAN/234_3R; SAN/234_4; SAN/234_5R; SAN/234_7R; COD/07A.; COD/7XAD34; HAD/7X7A34; WHG/07A.; BLI/24-; BLI/03A-; PRA/2AC4-C; PLE/7DE.; SRX/2AC4-C; SRX/67AKXD; RJE/7FG.; RJE/07E.; RJF/67AKXD; SRX/07D.; RJU/8-C.; RJU/9-C.; JAX/4BC7D; NOP/2A3A4.; BSF/56712-; ALF/3X14-; RNG/5B67-; RNG/8X14-; SBR/678-;
- **EU-UK-Norway TACs:** COD/2A3AX4; COD/5BE6A; COD/07D; POK/2C3A4; POK/56-14;
- **EU-Norway TACs:** COD/03AN; PRA/03A.

(i) there are analytical assessments according to which the biomass is below Blim; (ii) there are precautionary assessments recommending either zero catches or suspending the targeted fisheries; (iii) only by-catches or scientific fisheries are permitted; or (iv) the EU and the relevant third country or countries have excluded the application of such flexibility, and in order to ensure the recovery of the stocks, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden undertake not to make use of year-to-year flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to these stocks in 2026. This undertaking is a response to the current exceptional circumstances for these stocks.”

STATEMENT BY GERMANY, FRANCE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN on exchanges of quotas

“To guarantee to the extent possible the use of fishing opportunities for cod, herring and redfish in Norwegian waters of ICES areas 1 and 2, France and Germany will endeavour to make 20 % of each of their quota for haddock (HAD/1N2AB.), saithe (POK/1N2AB.), Greenland halibut (GHL/1N2AB.), and other species (OTH/1N2AB.) available for exchanges with Member States not having sufficient quota for these stocks. Portugal, Spain and other Member States concerned are to request exchanges by January 31, 2025. Requests are not to exceed needs to cover unavoidable by-catches in fisheries for cod, herring and redfish. Any unused quantities not transferred are to be returned to the Member States that initially contributed to the exchange. Unless otherwise agreed, Member States not having sufficient quotas for such unavoidable by-catches will endeavour to provide in return quotas of cod (COD/1N2AB.). Where the above-mentioned quantities do not allow these Member States to cover their unavoidable by-catches, France and Germany will endeavour to agree to further exchanges based on availability of quota and on the global balance of the exchange.”

STATEMENT BY BELGIUM, DENMARK, GERMANY, ESTONIA, IRELAND, SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, PORTUGAL, FINLAND AND SWEDEN on the multiannual plans

“Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Finland, and Sweden urges the Commission to swiftly submit a proposal for an amendment of the multiannual plans for the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, the Western Waters and the Western Mediterranean concerning articles 4(6) / 4(7) / 4 (3) to provide legal clarity and coherence between the relevant Articles of the MAPs. The proposal should be accompanied by an impact assessment of problems raised within their practical application, criteria and terms of application and duly take into account all objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Finland, and Sweden will be dedicated to sustainable stock management and will cooperate constructively with the Commission and the European Parliament in order to find a balanced solution of identified concerns.”

STATEMENT BY DENMARK on the Danish Mackerel Exceptional Priority

“In 1983, the Council granted Denmark The Mackerel Exceptional Priority in return for Denmark renouncing fishing opportunities for mackerel in Western Waters. Subsequently, in accordance with its provisions, the Mackerel Exceptional Priority was activated in 1997, 2005, 2006, 2007 and in 2008. Denmark regrets that the Council did not respect The Mackerel Exceptional Priority in 2024, although the conditions were clearly met given the agreed Total Allowable Catch. However, taking into account the extraordinary situation of the mackerel stock this year, and in solidarity with other Member States, Denmark will not apply the Danish Mackerel Exceptional Priority in 2025.

The Danish Mackerel Exceptional Priority should be respected in setting fishing opportunities for mackerel in the years to come.”

STATEMENT BY DENMARK, GERMANY, IRELAND, SPAIN, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL AND SWEDEN on quota exchanges for blue whiting following the EU-NO consultations for 2026

“Due to the collective efforts of Member States, it was possible to increase the amount of blue whiting in the quota exchange with Norway with 13 000 tons. A significant amount of quota from Portugal and Spain is being transferred to Germany and the Netherlands still in 2025. In order to take into account relative stability, the following quantities of blue whiting (WHB/1X14), for 2026, are added or taken from the share of Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden:

DE	-4.014,4t
DK	2.475,2t
ES	2.098,2t
FR	1.721,2t
IE	1.916,2t
NL	-5.003,7t
PT	195t
SE	612,3t

Member States will endeavour to make the appropriate transfers of blue whiting available as soon as possible in 2025 and 2026.”

JOINT STATEMENT BY DENMARK, GERMANY, IRELAND, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, PORTUGAL AND SWEDEN on Atlanto-Scandian herring

“Denmark, Germany, Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Sweden recall that in the sharing agreement in 2007 for Atlanto-Scandian herring the EU decreased its share from 8.38 percent to 6.51 percent to the advantage of Norway provided access to Norwegian waters would be provided. The aforementioned Member States noted that no such access had yet been agreed.”

STATEMENT BY GERMANY, ESTONIA, SPAIN, FRANCE, LITHUANIA, POLAND and PORTUGAL on Arctic cod in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone

“Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal recall that in 2021, due to the fishing stops issued by Norway, a total of 5 143 tonnes of the EU cod quota of the bilateral exchanges could not be fished in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone. The Member States express their disappointment that Norway has still not made that quantity available to the EU in the bilateral exchanges.

Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal call on the Commission to resume immediately the high-level political dialogue with Norway on the above issue, as well as other open fisheries issues, and to resolve it as soon as possible. In any case, the aforementioned Member States further call on the Commission to table a proposal, latest in the second in-year amendment of the Regulation on fishing opportunities for 2026, with an additional EU quota for Arctic cod to be fished in international waters of ICES area 1 and 2, in order to solve the above-mentioned debt issue.”

STATEMENT BY GREECE on tuna fishing opportunities

“Greece supports the Presidency's final compromise text on the Council Regulation determining the fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and the North Sea for the years 2026, 2027 and 2028.

However, our country wishes to clearly record that **the allocation key to the Member States for bluefin tuna creates long-standing inequality to the detriment of Greece**, a fact that had already been recognized in a Joint Declaration of the **Council of December 1999**.

This situation continues to disproportionately affect coastal and small-scale fisheries, which play an important social and economic role and have a low environmental impact.

In order to **effectively address this long-standing problem** and to strengthen fleets disadvantaged by the very small historical quotas, Greece considers it necessary to **create an EU solidarity reserve from unused quantities of bluefin tuna**.

This is particularly important in the current situation where the situation of the stock has improved substantially, allowing the total allowable catch of bluefin tuna to be increased.

Such a reserve would allow targeted and proportionate support to small-scale coastal tuna fisheries of Member States with limited capacity, without affecting the principle of relative stability.

Greece requests that this issue be taken seriously into account in the next discussions on the internal allocation and on the use of new or unallocated quantities, as it pertains to the **fair treatment and equal participation of all member states** in the management of the stock.”