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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 22 June 2026
Implementability of EU control measures to maintain the competitiveness of the European fisheries market
- Information from Germany, supported by Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden

Implementability of EU control measures to maintain the competitiveness of the European fisheries market

Information from Germany, supported by Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden

Effective fisheries controls and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing are an important part of maintaining marine biodiversity and establishing a fisheries economy that works in harmony with nature.

The provisions laid out in the revised EU fisheries control regulation and in the regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation) contribute to the sustainable exploitation of European fish stocks. Their gradual entry into force requires the adoption of further delegated and implementing acts with regard to traceability, remote electronic monitoring and monitoring of engine power. We recognise that these measures will be of key importance to the provision of an effective and harmonised approach within the European Union.

The core goal of these specific steps, as well as any further upcoming legislative procedures, must be the retention and improvement of the competitiveness of a sustainable European fisheries sector.

Future legal acts must therefore also contribute to reducing the bureaucratic burden on European companies while improving the practical applicability of the provisions for both economic actors and the relevant authorities alike.

To this end, future legal acts and IT systems should be configured to implement the once-only principle where sensible and to enable the consistent reuse of prior data from existing systems. Special consideration must be given to interoperability. Double work in reporting requirements must be avoided and abolished where possible. Existing systems must be further developed into reliable and user-friendly applications. This includes basic functions, such as an automatic readout and scan functions in CATCH. New digital requirements must be practicable and must in particular take the productive capacity of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) into account.

Existing legislation has been found to exert a disproportionate burden on these companies when assessed in practice. This concerns, for example, the rules on permissible margins of tolerance in Article 14 of the revised control regulation. How practical improvements can be targeted in further legislative procedures without undermining the underlying goals of these controls should be reviewed.

The implementation of the revised control regulation and the IUU regulation can only succeed if the legislative framework for enforcement of the compliance standard remains usable in practice. We thus once again emphatically urge the European Commission to credit the key significance of these aspects in future legislative procedures. This especially applies to the upcoming legal acts on traceability, remote electronic monitoring and the continuous monitoring of engine power.