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LIMITE

PECHE 253

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Working Party on Fisheries Policy of 16 June 2022 I. IOTC II. TACs - 3rd amendment III. COFI - FAO IV. TAXONOMY

- I. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) area of competence, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EC) No 1984/2003 and (EC) No 520/2007**
- *Presentation of the final compromise text with a view to agreement*
1. The Presidency presented the final compromise text agreed in interinstitutional technical meetings held in recent weeks. He noted that the provisional final agreement overall largely reflected the position of the Council set out in its mandate and that only a few changes were made to it.
 2. One delegation intervened to thank the Presidency for the work done.
 3. The Commission representative mentioned that the text was going in the right direction and that the Commission would support it at the level of Coreper, however, would issue a statement on specific elements thereof.

4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had analysed and supported the final compromise text reached. He explained the further procedure at level of Coreper and formal adoption.

II. Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EU) 2022/109 fixing for 2022 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters

– *Agreement on the Presidency compromise*

1. The Presidency presented the compromise on the above-mentioned proposal as set out in doc. ST 10140/22. He further explained that for the IOTC related yellowfin tuna and the flexibility concerning horse mackerel, discussions were still ongoing and no proposal was included at this stage.
2. Delegations reiterated the importance of the said flexibility for the sector.
3. Asked about the implications of the additional footnote for the table of Mediterranean Albacore, the Commission representative explained that the bycatches are to be counted against the quota but reported separately. He reassured Member States that they would have time to implement this change.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had examined the presidency compromise and that there was broad support for the document. He further informed that a written consultation would be launched for the missing elements in the coming days.

III. 35th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (Rome, 5-9 September 2022)

– *Information by the Commission*

1. The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on the FAO-COFI meeting in September, the preparations for which will be challenging because the FAO secretariat will only issue the meeting documents at the end of July.
2. SE announced that, in agreement with the incoming Presidency, it will chair EU coordination meetings in the margins of the COFI session.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission.

IV. Taxonomy: implications for the fisheries sector

– *Information by the Commission*

1. The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on ongoing work on taxonomy and the implications for the fisheries sector, explaining that the Commission was adopting delegated acts to put the taxonomy criteria into practice.
2. A large number of delegations intervened, expressing concerns about the feasibility of the measures envisaged for the fisheries sector and/or about the process followed, regretting the absence of discussion amongst fisheries experts. Numerous questions were asked about conformity with existing legislation, the exclusion of aquaculture, about DG MARE's role, whether the Working Party will have the opportunity to discuss the delegated act, how feedback from the member states will be taken into account, and about the next steps and how the measures will be applied in practice. The Commission representative responded, expressing full sympathy with the concerns expressed and indicating that a broad consultation will precede the preparation of the delegated act. He expressed readiness to keep the Working Party updated.
3. The Presidency called on delegations to coordinate with their relevant colleagues. He concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and of the reactions of delegations.

V. Any Other Business
