



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 September 2012

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**Interinstitutional files:
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"I" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Permanent Representatives Committee

No. Cion prop. : 13264/12 PECHE 315 CODEC 2029 - COM(2012) 471 final

Subject : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain technical and control measures in the Skagerrak and amending Regulation (EC) No 850/98 and Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008
- Optional consultation of the Committee of the Regions¹

1. On 29 August 2012, the Commission submitted to the Council a Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain technical and control measures in the Skagerrak and amending Regulation (EC) No 850/98 and Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008. The proposal included a suggestion to consult optionally the Committee of the Regions.

¹ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

2. The aim of the proposal is to adopt the measures required for a discard ban in the Skagerrak which was the result of consultations between the EU and Norway on this issue. Some of these measures are due to start on 1 January 2013. The proposal also has links to the proposed reform of the Common Fisheries Policy although the Commission, in its proposal, argues that it does not prejudge this reform. The proposal concerns a specific region, Skagerrak, so can also be considered as part of a "regionalisation" process.
3. Article 43 TFEU provides for the European Parliament and for the Council to act in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee. Thus, the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions is not required. However, as this proposal covers a specific region, it appears appropriate to also consult the Committee of the Regions on the present Proposal.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the Committee of the Regions on the above Proposal and to request it to give its opinion by the end of the year given that certain aspects of the proposal are due to enter into force on 1 January 2013.