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(OR. en)

14768/24  
PV CONS 54  
AGRI 758  
PECHE 415

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
**(Agriculture and Fisheries)**  
21 and 22 October 2024

## **MEETING ON MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2024**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 14270/24 with the addition, at the request from Slovakia, of an item under "Any other business" (**new item 7(j)**). The Council also agreed to hold that additional item in public session as per Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

### **2. Approval of 'A' items**

#### **(a) Non-legislative list** 14561/24

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) 14587/24


### **Economic and Financial Affairs**

1. Amendments of the European Parliament to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2025 **[S]** 14265/24 + COR 1  
FIN  
*Non-approval of the European Parliament's amendment(s)*  
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 16.10.2024

The Council confirmed that it cannot approve all the amendments to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2025 should they be adopted by the European Parliament and approved the draft letter to the European Parliament to that effect, as set out in the Annex of the document above.

## Non-legislative activities

### FISHERIES


3. **Council Regulation fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities applicable in the Baltic Sea** (\*) 13902/24  
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Art. 43(3) TFEU) 12844/24 + COR 1  
*Political agreement* + ADD 1  
+ ADD 1 COR 1

The Council reached a political agreement on the regulation setting fishing opportunities for 2025 for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea.

Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

4. ICCAT annual meeting 13800/24  
(Limassol, Cyprus, 11-18 November 2024)  
*Exchange of views*

### AGRICULTURE

5. Conclusions on a farmer-focused post 2027 Common 14470/24  
Agricultural Policy  
*Approval*
6. **Challenges faced by the EU food chain**  14272/24  
*Information from the Presidency*  
*Exchange of views*

The Council exchanged views on the challenges faced by the EU food chain. The Council also took note of the information provided by France and Spain on the need for a European coordination for animal health vaccination, and of the interventions by the delegations and by the Commission.

## **Any other business**

### Fisheries

7. a) **Need for revised rules to allow for ecosystem-based hunting of cormorants and seals in order to protect sensitive fish stocks** 14552/24  
*Information from Sweden, supported by Estonia, Finland, and Latvia.*

The Council took note of the information provided by Sweden on the need for revised rules to allow for ecosystem-based hunting of cormorants and seals in order to protect sensitive fish stocks. It also took note of the comments made by delegations and by the Commission.

### Agriculture

- b) **European Coordination for Animal Health Vaccination** 14592/24  
*Information from France and Spain*

Item 7 (b) was taken together with item 6.

- c) **Outcome of the “Food waste - 2024-2030” conference on prevention of food waste (Budapest, 1 October 2024)** 14594/24  
*Information from the Presidency*


The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency on the outcome of the “Food waste - 2024-2030” conference on prevention of food waste, and of the interventions by the delegations and by the Commission.

- d) **Outcome of the meeting of CAP Directors (Budapest, 10-12 September 2024)** 14580/1/24 REV 1  
*Information from the Presidency*


The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency on the outcome of the meeting of CAP directors (Budapest, 10-12 September 2024) and of the conference of directors of EU paying agencies (Budapest, 16-18 October 2024) and of delegations’ and the Commission’s comments.

- e) **Outcome of the Conference of Directors of EU Paying Agencies (Budapest, 16-18 October 2024)**  14591/24  
*Information from the Presidency*

Item 7 (e) was taken together with item 7 (d).

- f) **Results of the meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the Visegrad Group (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Bulgaria and Romania (GV4+2) (Poznań, 25-26 September 2024)**  14431/24  
*Information from Poland, on behalf of Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia*


The Council took note of the information provided by Poland on the outcome of the meeting of the Visegrad Group and Bulgaria and Romania, and of delegations' and the Commission's comments.

- g) **EU response to the consequences of extreme climate events: Funding crisis measures in the European Union**  14439/24  
*Information from Portugal, supported by Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece and Italy*

The Council took note of the information provided by Portugal on the EU response to the consequences of extreme climate events. It also took note of delegations' and the Commission's comments.

- h) **PeaceBread conference (Germany, 30 September – 2 October 2024)**  14473/24  
*Information from Germany*

The Council took note of the information provided by Germany on the PeaceBread conference. The Council also took note of the Commission's and delegations' reactions.

- i) **The need to extend the application of the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework in the agricultural sector and increase the individual limit per agricultural enterprise**  14464/1/24 REV 1  
*Information from Romania, supported by Bulgaria and Slovakia*

The Council took note of the information provided by Romania on state aid. The Council also took note of delegations' and the Commission's comments.

## MEETING ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2024

### Non-legislative activities

#### FISHERIES

3. **(continuation)** Council Regulation fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities applicable in the Baltic Sea ☐(\*) 13902/24  
12844/24 + COR 1  
+ ADD 1  
+ ADD 1 COR 1  
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Art. 43(3) TFEU)  
*Political agreement*

See page 3.

#### AGRICULTURE

5. **(continuation)** Conclusions on a farmer-focused post 2027 Common Agricultural Policy 14470/24  
*Approval*
8. Trade-related agricultural issues 14322/24  
*Information from the Commission*  
*Exchange of views*

### Any other business

#### Agriculture

7. j) **New item:** Need to address the imminent risk of decommitment for rural development programmes ☐<sup>2</sup> 14709/24  
*Information from Slovakia*

The Council took note of the information provided by Slovakia on decommitment of funds.

The Council also took note of the Commission's and delegations' reactions.

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☐<sup>2</sup> Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

☐ Item based on a Commission proposal

(\*) Item on which a vote may be requested

**Statement to the "B" items****Council Regulation fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities applicable in the Baltic Sea****Ad "B" item 3:**

(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Art. 43(3) TFEU)

*Political agreement*

**JOINT STATEMENT BY DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GERMANY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND AND SWEDEN on the application of Article 15(9) of the Basic Regulation as regards eastern Baltic cod and western Baltic cod in 2025**

“Given that the biomass of the stocks of eastern Baltic cod and western Baltic cod are below  $B_{lim}$ , and in order to ensure the recovery of the stock in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to these stocks in 2025. This undertaking is a response to the current exceptional circumstances for the eastern Baltic cod and western Baltic cod stocks.”

**JOINT STATEMENT BY DENMARK, FINLAND, GERMANY, POLAND AND SWEDEN on the application of Article 15(9) in the Basic Regulation as regards western Baltic herring in 2025**

“Given that the biomass of the stock of western Baltic herring is below  $B_{lim}$ , and in order to ensure the recovery of the stock in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to this stock in 2025. This undertaking is a response to the current exceptional circumstances for the western Baltic herring stock.”

**JOINT STATEMENT BY DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GERMANY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND AND SWEDEN on the application of Article 15(9) in the Basic Regulation as regards main basin salmon in 2025**

“Given that in ICES subdivisions 22-29S almost all wild salmon river stocks are well below  $R_{lim}$ , and in order to ensure the recovery of the stocks, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to these stocks in 2025. This commitment is a response to the current exceptional circumstances for the wild salmon river stocks south to latitude 59°30'N.

Given the limited salmon migration in the major salmon rivers in the Gulf of Bothnia both in 2023 and 2024, and in order to ensure and promote a faster recovery of the salmon stocks, Finland undertakes not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to the Main Basin salmon quota in 2025. Sweden undertakes to limit the use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 for unavoidable bycatches purposes only. These commitments are a response to the worrying development of the wild salmon river stocks in ICES subdivisions 30-31.”

**JOINT STATEMENT BY DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GERMANY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND AND SWEDEN on exchanges of eastern and western Baltic cod quotas**

“In a spirit of solidarity, a Member State not needing its entire by-catch quota for eastern or western Baltic cod will seek to agree on quota exchanges with a Member State that can demonstrate it will be confronted with a choke effect due to its limited eastern or western Baltic cod quota.”

**JOINT STATEMENT BY DENMARK, ESTONIA, GERMANY, LITHUANIA AND POLAND on transfers of Main Basin salmon quotas**

“In a spirit of solidarity and recognising the conservation efforts made by Finland and Sweden, which have led to healthy stocks in their waters, a Member State which cannot use its entire quota for Main Basin salmon will consider a voluntary transfer of the unused or unusable part of that quota to Finland and/or Sweden.”

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION on the political agreement reached by the Council**

“The Commission takes note of the political agreement reached by the Council on the fishing opportunities for 2025 in the Baltic Sea. The Commission is concerned that the following elements of that agreement are less likely to contribute to the recovery of certain stocks than the Commission proposal, and may not be in line with the applicable legal framework, including the Baltic multiannual plan. In particular, the Commission considers that: (1) the total allowable catches (TACs) for sprat and western herring should have been set at a level which ensures that the probability for the stocks to respectively fall or remain below  $B_{lim}$  in 2026 is less than 5%; and (2) there should be no targeted fisheries, commercial or recreational, of western Baltic herring and main basin salmon (except from May to August in the coastal waters of subdivisions 29 North to 31) for which the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea advises to stop all fishing.”

**JOINT STATEMENT BY DENMARK, GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS on the application of Article 15(9) of the Basic Regulation as regards Norway pout in the North Sea in the 2025 fishing season**

“Given that ICES forecasts that the biomass of Norway pout in the North Sea (NOP/2A3A4.) may decrease below  $B_{lim}$  even with zero catches and given that ICES advises zero catches for the 2025 fishing season (1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025), and in order to ensure the recovery of the stock, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to that stock in the 2025 fishing season. This undertaking is a response to the current exceptional circumstances of that stock.”



**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION AND GERMANY on the option of support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**

1. “According to Article 5(3), point (a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 establishing a multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, remedial measures for the purpose of Article 5 of that Regulation may include Member State emergency measures pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, provided that certain conditions are met.
2. Given the assessment of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on cod and herring in subdivisions 22-24 Germany therefore deems it necessary to adopt emergency measures pursuant to Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. The emergency measures in subdivisions 22-24 for German fishing vessels consist in introducing a closure of 30 days for the protection of cod in addition to the cod spawning closure established by Article 7(3) of the Regulation fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea during which the exemption contained in Article 7 (4)(b) shall not apply, and limiting by additional 30 days the herring fishery during which the exemption for certain small-scale coastal fisheries from the prohibition to target western herring is interrupted and fisheries with by-catches of herring.
3. The Commission and Germany agree that this emergency measure is eligible for funding from Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 provided that it is in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 21(2)(c) of that Regulation.”

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION, LATVIA AND SWEDEN on the option of support for the temporary cessation of sprat fishing activities by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund**

1. “According to Article 5(3), point (a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 establishing a multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, remedial measures for the purpose of Article 5 of that Regulation may include Member State emergency measures pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, under certain conditions.
2. Given the assessment of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on sprat as regards the last year’s low stock recruitment rate and high risks for further reduction of the current spawning stock biomass and overall stock size it deems appropriate pursuant to Article 13(I) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 to apply at Member states level additional optional emergency measures (one month closure period in addition to general pelagic species 3 month fisheries closure period from 1 May until 31 July beyond 12 mile limits adopted by the Baltic Sea TAC and Quota Regulation for 2025).

3. The Commission, Latvia and Sweden agree that this emergency measure is eligible for funding from Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 provided that it is introduced in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 21 (2)(c) of that Regulation.”
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