Council of the European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Regulation 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 • Additional statements

Delegations will find in the Annex additional statements by Member States.

ANNEX

Statement by Denmark and Sweden on eel

The result of the political agreement on Fishing Opportunities for 2022 on eel will impact Danish and Swedish fishermen severely. Denmark and Sweden have a traditional artisanal small-scale eel fisheries with low-impact gears that takes place in marine waters. Given the critical state of the European eel stock, appropriate actions are needed for all stages of the eel life cycle and areas. The recovery of the European eel stock is a shared responsibility that requires coordinated action regionally as well as across the entire distribution area for European eel for these actions to have a positive effect. For Denmark and Sweden it is important that effective measures to protect and rebuild the European eel are pan-European and that all anthropogenic mortalities – not only fisheries – are minimised.

Statement by Belgium, Denmark, France, The Netherlands and Germany on Hague Preferences

Belgium, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands and France are of the opinion that the scales for the allocation of quotas for Member States were agreed upon in 1983. These scales constitute the basis of relative stability, which is a principle established by the Basic Regulation governing the Common Fisheries Policy. It is our opinion that Hague preferences are contrary to the principle of relative stability.

Statement by Poland on Svalbard cod

Poland is aware that TCA provisions requires, inter alia, allocating 25% of the quota share of the Svalbard cod to the UK. Poland understands that the decisions taken at the Council are difficult for all concerned Member States and Poland recognizes that these are provisional solutions without prejudice to the future long term arrangements.

Poland would like to emphasise that the mechanism based on the Council Decision 87/277/EEC for calculation of the cod distribution among EU Member States should apply only to the Member States explicitly mentioned in this decision only and not to Poland. The Polish share within the years 2004 – 2020 was never subject to the methodology elaborated by the Council Decision 87/277/EEC.

Before Brexit, Polish share was calculated on the fixed percentage which was 0.31% of the total TAC established by the Jointed Norwegian - Russian Fisheries Commission.

Therefore, the implementation of the TCA should be applied directly to Polish historical share of 0.31%. Poland is strongly opposing being part of the mechanism used by the Commission for 2022 and considers that the Polish share in TAC shall remain fixed at the level established for 2021 when the TCA was implemented for the first time.