

Brussels, 12 February 2026
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PECHE 437

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Working Party on Fisheries Policy of 4 December 2025
I. Main TACs , 2026, 2027 and 2028
II. Mediterranean TACs 2026
III. Recommendation, EU-Mauritania
IV. Economic report, fishing fleet
V. SFPA, EU-Secyelles
VI. EU-UK annual consultations
VII. SFPA EU-Gabon
VIII. SPRFMO 14th annual meeting
IX. 30th Annual conference, Pollack in the Bering Sea
X. Letters to the Commission and the European Parliament, MAP
XI. AOB

1. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters

– *Examination of the Commission services non-paper*

1. The Commission services representative presented the latest non-paper on the above-mentioned proposal as set out in doc. ST 16155/25.
2. Delegations who intervened made a number of specific remarks on both the non-paper and the Commission's proposal. Ten delegations presented scrutiny reservations.

3. The Commission services representative addressed the questions posed by delegations.
 4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the presentation by the Commission of its latest non-paper and the comments made by delegations on the COM proposal as complemented by the various non-papers. Delegations are asked to send any final written comments on the Commission proposal, including on the last Commission non-paper which was just presented, by tomorrow Friday, 5 December, end of the day.
- 2. Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2026**
- *Exchange of views*
1. The Commission services representative presented a concise overview of the contents of the latest non-paper.
 2. Two delegations intervened to indicate that they would submit written comments or additional technical questions.
 3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the comments made by delegations and by the Commission, and invited delegations concerned to send in written comments if they had not done so.
- 3. Recommendation for a Council Decision authorizing the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the Conclusion of a new Protocol implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Mauritania**
- *Presentation*
1. The Commission services representative presented the above-mentioned recommendation for the negotiations of a new protocol with Mauritania.
 2. Numerous delegations intervened and entered scrutiny reserves. They stressed the importance of the negotiations, asked questions, and made suggestions to avoid interruptions at the end of the duration of a protocol.
 3. The Council Legal Service representative intervened to provide some comments on the Commission's recommendation.

4. The Commission services representative answered to questions and comments of delegations.
5. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the presentation by the Commission and the comments made by delegations. She asked delegations to send written comments by Tuesday, 9 December. She also mentioned that, based on the comments, if necessary, the Presidency would issue a compromise text for a written consultation of the Working Party with the aim of reaching an agreement still in December.

4. Annual Economic Report of the fishing fleet

– *Presentation by the Commission*

1. The Commission services representative presented key elements of the 2025 Annual Economic Report of the fishing fleet.
2. Five delegations intervened to thank for the concise presentation and pointed to issues of particular concern to them.
3. The Commission services representative reacted to comments by delegations.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the presentation by the Commission and comments by delegations.

5. Update from the Commission on SFPA EU-Seychelles negotiations

– *Presentation by the Commission*

1. The Working Party took stock of the situation regarding the negotiation of a new protocol, following the third negotiating round in Victoria on 24-28 November and ahead of a fourth round in Brussels on 12-16 January. The Commission services representative signalled that there would inevitably be an interruption in coverage following the expiry of the current protocol in February. A technical meeting would be held in December to prepare the fourth round.

2. Several delegations intervened with comments and questions, to which the Commission services representative responded.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and of the comments made by delegations.

6. Update from the Commission on EU-UK annual consultations

– Presentation by the Commission

1. The Commission services representative presented the outcome of the above-mentioned consultations.
2. Numerous delegations intervened to comment on the results of the consultations and reiterated their appreciation for the efforts of the Commission team.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party took note of the debrief provided by the Commission and of the comments made by delegations. The draft Written Record will be submitted to a written consultation for endorsement by the Working Party followed by a written procedure for approval at Council level. Following the formal signature of the EU-UK Written Record, the Commission will share the corresponding tables to be included in the main TACs and quotas regulation.

7. SFPA EU-Gabon: 1st round of negotiations

– Preparation

1. The Commission services representative briefed delegations ahead of the joint committee meeting and first round of negotiations on a new protocol, to be held in Libreville on 15-16 December. An EU coordination meeting would be held on 12 December to prepare the meeting.
2. Two delegations intervened with comments, confirming their participating in the meeting. The Commission services representative responded to the comments made.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and of the comments made by delegations. It had thereby prepared the joint committee meeting and first round of negotiations.

8. 14th Annual Meeting of the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), 2 to 6 March 2026, Panama City (Panama)

– *Preparation*

1. The Presidency invited delegations to comment on the Commission non-paper in order to prepare the annual meeting.
2. One delegation took the floor. No objections were raised.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had thereby prepared the annual meeting.

9. 30th Annual Conference of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea

– *Preparation*

1. The Commission services representative outlined the context of the above-mentioned annual conference and the proposed approach.
2. One delegation intervened to comment on the approach.
3. The Commission services representative responded to the intervention by the delegation.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information by the Commission and of the comments made by one delegation and agreed with the proposed non-paper. She mentioned that the 30th annual meeting of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea was therefore prepared.

10. Letters to the Commission and the European Parliament regarding amendments of the multiannual plans for fisheries in the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, the Western Waters and in the Western Mediterranean

– *Examination*

1. The Presidency presented revised versions of the two abovementioned letters.
2. Several delegations intervened to express support for the revised letters.

3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the presentation by the Presidency of the revised letters and the comments by delegations. She mentioned that the Working Party agreed with the revised draft letters and explained that they would be submitted to Coreper for approval on 10 December.

11. Any other business
