



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 26 January 2021  
(OR. en)

5543/21

LIMITE

PECHE 30  
UK 24

#### NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Preparation of the bilateral EU-UK consultations on fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022 - Presidency initial guidance in view of the consultations

Following the discussion in the fisheries Working Party, in the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and at the Informal Videoconference of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers of 25 January 2021, delegations will find annexed to this note the Presidency's proposed initial guidance in view of the EU-UK consultations on fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022.

**Initial guidance for the start of the consultations with the United Kingdom**

In addition to the Commission revised non-paper<sup>1</sup>, the Council considers that the following guidance should form the initial Union position for the start of the consultations with the United Kingdom:

- The involvement of the Council at Ministerial level during the entire process at appropriate junctures should be ensured;
- Extensive coordination and cooperation between the Council and the Commission during this process should be guaranteed, in order to ensure the full involvement of the Council. This includes in situ coordination meetings, presentations, debriefs and discussions in the Working Party, full involvement of delegations in the consultations including as part of the EU delegation, as well as technical meetings when needed;
- The principles, objectives and provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy should guide the consultations. This includes, inter alia, basing decisions on the best available scientific advice, following the provisions of the multiannual plans, respecting the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic, and social) as well as to take into account mixed fisheries considerations;
- In view of establishing the EU position and to facilitate the further preparation of the consultations, more details on a stock-by-stock basis should be provided by the Commission, in particular on the TAC levels as well as on other issues of importance to delegations, such as remedial measures and the procedure for swaps of quotas. Pending the establishment of the formal Union position, the Commission should take into account the position of delegations on the stocks identified as priorities. It is for the Council to decide the appropriate level at which the EU position should be established and the form in which it should be adopted;

---

<sup>1</sup> as set out in doc. 5031/1/21 REV 1.

- The Commission should endeavour to pursue a level-playing field between the EU and UK fleets as regards remedial measures and the landing obligation.

If needed, this initial guidance is to be further developed within and by the Council before any agreement is reached with the UK.

---