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LIMITE

PECHE 34

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Working Party on Fisheries Policy meeting of 25 January 2024.

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- I. SFPA EU-Guinea-Bissau: Opening of negotiations
  - II. ECA special report, Draft Council Conclusions
  - III. NEAFC Transposition
  - IV. AOBs
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- I. **Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of the negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of an Implementing Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau**
- *Examination of the Presidency compromise.*
  - 1. The Presidency presented the Presidency compromise on the above-mentioned subject.
  - 2. Delegations that intervened supported the Presidency compromise.
  - 3. FR introduced a parliamentary scrutiny reservation.
  - 4. The Commission services representative could also support the compromise but recalled the Commission's position on the change of the legal basis and said that the Commission would submit a statement on that matter.

5. The Presidency concluded that there was broad support for the Presidency compromise as set out in doc. ST 5607/24 + ADD 1 and that it would be submitted to Coreper and Council for adoption after revision by the lawyer-linguists.

**II. Draft Council conclusions on European Court of Auditors Special Report No 25/2023 on EU aquaculture policy**

– *Presentation by the Presidency*

1. The Presidency presented its revised text for draft Council conclusions on the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 25/2023.
2. Several delegations intervened to express support for the revised text. Some delegations suggested additional modifications. A few delegations entered scrutiny reserves.
3. The representative of the European Commission services supported the revised text and replied to the comment of one delegation.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the presentation by the Presidency of the revised text and asked delegations to provide written comments by the following day.

**III. Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down conservation, management and control measures applicable in the area covered by the Convention on future multilateral cooperation in the North-East Atlantic fisheries, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1899/85 and Regulation (EU) No 1236/2010**

– *Exchange of views to prepare for inter-institutional technical meeting*

1. The Presidency explained the recent developments and the next steps on the above-mentioned proposal. She sought input from delegations on specific amendments proposed by the Parliament.
2. The representatives of the European Commission services outlined their views on various amendments proposed by the Parliament and the Council.
3. Several delegations intervened to express their preliminary comments. Some delegations entered scrutiny reserves.
4. The representative of the European Commission services responded to questions by delegations.
5. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had exchanged views on the 'NEAFC transposition proposal' in preparation of inter-institutional negotiations. She asked delegations to send written comments within a short deadline.

#### IV. Any other business

##### a) New Aarhus request

*Information from the Presidency*

1. The Presidency announced the arrival of two new Aarhus requests for review of a Council act and specified the deadlines for the Council's reply. She then concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Presidency.

##### b) ATQ for Tuna - Letter from the Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia and Chair of the OACPS

*Information from the Presidency*

1. The Presidency informed delegations that it had received a letter from the Chair of the OACPS related to the EU Autonomous Tariff Quotas.
2. The Commission Services Representative outlined his view on the matter.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Presidency and that the Presidency would draw up an answer in coordination with the Commission services.

##### c) WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies

*Information from the Commission on the state of play.*

1. The Commission services representative informed delegations about the ongoing WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies.
  2. Delegations intervened to recall their position on the matter.
  3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the information provided by the Commission.
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