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NOTE

from : Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the European Union

to : General Secretariat of the Council

No. Cion prop. : 13139/05 PECHE 203 - COM(2005) 472 final

Subject : Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel

Delegations will find attached written comments from Slovenia on the above-mentioned subject.

WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM THE SLOVENIAN DELEGATION ON PROPOSED MEASURES FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE STOCK OF EUROPEAN EEL

Slovenia welcomes the proposed Council Regulation aimed at regulating the protection and management of the stocks of European eel.

For over 13 years Slovenia has in place a system for the protection of eel, which is much stricter than proposed measures in this draft Regulation. As early as from 1993 eel is a protected species on the basis of national *Decree on the protection of wild animal species*. Slovenia therefore introduced a total prohibition of exploitation throughout the year in order to prevent the reduction of stocks within Slovenia's national territory.

In the light of this, Slovenia proposes that Article 1 of the draft Regulation should be amended as follows:

“Provisions of this Regulation shall not apply to Member States not engaged in the fishing activities and/or exploitation of the stocks of European eel in accordance with Article 14 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.”