



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 February 2006

**Interinstitutional File:
2005/0201 (CNS)**

**5988/06
ADD 2**

LIMITE

PECHE 26

PUBLIC

NOTE

from : Danish Permanent Representation 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 Denmark on the above-mentioned subject.

Measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel
- Written comments from the Danish Delegation

Denmark welcomes the intentions of the Commission proposal to establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel. Denmark agrees that common management measures have to be taken as to the conservation of the European eel stocks. Denmark is in favour of balanced actions, covering all life stages of the eel, in accordance with the ICES recommendations.

Denmark is of the general opinion that the primary aim of any measures, besides the need for conservation, must be an optimum exploitation of the resources. Environmental, economic and social aspects should be taken into account in a balanced manner, in accordance with the Common Fisheries Policy.

Denmark appreciates that the Commission proposal requests Member States to define and develop individual management plans. It is essential that Member States may adapt their management plans to national conditions.

Denmark supports the overall objective of a minimum escapement of the biomass of adult eel to the sea. However, it is very difficult to comment on the proposed objective of management plans of 40% escapement relative to the potential escapement. We have little information on how the 40% escapement will affect the eel populations and the fishery. It is therefore difficult to judge if the 40% escapement is consistent with the primary aim of conservation and optimal exploitation and Denmark is not convinced that the escapement objective should be identical for all river systems. We should consider allowing for a regional approach where the escapement percentage is adapted to the local conditions and also takes into account the mortality on the eels after they have left the river system.

In any case, Denmark interprets the proposal in such a way that management plans should cover river basins defined in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC.

Denmark furthermore finds a need for technical guidelines for how to monitor and verify the attainment of the objective.

A meeting of a STECF sub-group is planned for March. Denmark hopes the sub-group will be able to address the issues raised above and that the report of the group will provide a useful background for further discussion on objectives.

Under all circumstances, it seems appropriate to use an adaptive approach to reach the overall objective.