



Brussels, 10 March 2023
(OR. en)

7207/23

PECHE 73
ENV 212
POLMAR 11
ENER 106

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Fisheries package a) Communication on the common fisheries policy today and tomorrow: A Fisheries and Oceans Pact towards sustainable, science-based, innovative and inclusive fisheries management b) Report on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products c) Communication on an EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries d) Communication on the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture sector - Presentation by the Commission - Exchange of views

1. On 21 February 2023, the Commission submitted to the Council a fisheries policy package, containing the four documents in subject, that aims at improving the sustainability and resilience of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sector. The three communications and the report complement each other, as they tackle different aspects of the Common Fisheries Policy and propose measures targeted at fisheries and coastal communities, the marine ecosystem, governance and innovation. In this sense the Commission proposes a "Fisheries and Ocean Pact" to reconcile environmental and socio-economic considerations and to bring together all stakeholders to shape a common future of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture policy building on a healthy marine environment and a reduced carbon footprint.

2. On 9 March 2023, a first presentation and exchange of views on these four documents took place at the Working Party on Fisheries Policy.
 3. The Council will be invited to hold an exchange of views on this policy package, with the aim of contributing to the preparation of draft Council conclusions. The Presidency proposes to structure the debate in the Council along the following three questions:
 - a) What are your main priorities for a sustainable and resilient future of the EU's fisheries and aquaculture sector, taking into account also the current geopolitical context?
 - b) In your opinion, what are the key elements when it comes to the actions that the Commission proposes in its package?
 - c) A central part of the Commission's package is to work closer with all stakeholders through a possible Fisheries and Oceans Pact and an Energy Transition Partnership. How do you envisage such collaboration from a Member State perspective involving all actors concerned?
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