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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 30 March 2026:
On the need for clear improvement and simplification of Union fisheries legislation, in particular the draft weighing provisions
- Information from Germany

**On the need for clear improvement and simplification of Union fisheries legislation,
in particular the draft weighing provisions**

Information from Germany

The amended EU Fisheries Control Regulation and the amended regulation on eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation), which have been in force since the beginning of the year, represent a significant increase in bureaucracy and pose massive challenges to economic operators and competent authorities. It now becomes apparent that complying with the new rules means serious struggles to many businesses.

This is contrary to the conclusions of the European Council of 19 March 2026 (EUCO 1/26), which called for rules to be ambitiously simplified and administrative burdens to be reduced.

The Commission's draft for a new implementing act on the weighing of fishery products is a concrete example of the increased burden required by EU law. The requirements for weighing records and weighing systems and the framework for future sampling and control plans are not only disproportionate, but in some cases simply not feasible. Improvements and adjustments are urgently needed.

We have serious concerns about further weakening the competitiveness of the fisheries sector and countering its development towards greater resilience through over-regulation and out-of-touch regulations.

We also see an urgent need for action in other areas where new EU law already applies. This concerns, for example, the IT system 'CATCH' and the mandatory catch reporting in recreational fisheries. In this respect, we refer to the letter of February 2026 signed by 18 Member States, and call on the Commission to urgently present effective and tangible simplifications and improvements for the fisheries sector.
