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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations

Subject:	Working Party on Fisheries Policy of 7 May 2026
	I. Evaluation of the CFP regulation
	II. 137th session of the OECD Committee of Fisheries
	III. EU-UK and EU-UK-Norway consultations on sprat
	IV. EU-Mauritania SFPA negotiations
	V. Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)
	VI. EU-UK consultations on the joint management of brown crab
	VII. EU-UK consultations on rebuilding strategies
	VIII. Draft EU statement for the UNFSA ICSP 2026
	IX. EU – Greenland SFPA
	X. Any other business

1. Evaluation of the CFP regulation

– *Presentation of the Staff Working Document by the Commission*

1. The Commission services representative made a very detailed presentation on the Staff Working Document on the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy. She highlighted the methodology, the important stakeholder engagement in the consultation and its main findings.
2. A full tour de table highlighted the importance of the discussion and the high expectations for the next steps. Among the issues addressed were:

- the need to expand the discussion on the future of the CFP to cover not just the basic CFP regulation but also the Control regulation, the Technical measures regulation, the Multiannual management plans for the different sea basins, the funding instruments – notably EMFAF
- the challenges linked to the economic performance, competitiveness and profitability of the EU fishing fleet;
- the aging fleet and generational renewal;
- fleet modernisation, decarbonisation and the energy transition; capacity ceilings and adequate budget support in the new financing period;
- the importance of the fishing sector for food security; the support of developing aquaculture in the EU;
- simplification and reducing administrative burden;
- ecosystem approach is key and managing other factors impacting on the fish stocks, such as climate change, environmental degradation and predators.

3. The Commission services representative responded to the comments and questions in a detailed manner and informed that the CFP evaluation is a backward looking exercise and cannot design next steps. However, the Commission is looking forward to further exchanges and political guidance on what should be the next steps.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the presentation of the Staff Working Document on the Common Fisheries Policy evaluation by the Commission and of the input by delegations and is looking forward to continue the discussion on shaping the EU fishing fleet of the future and the policy instruments needed to support it.

2. **137th session of the OECD Committee of Fisheries (18-19 May 2026, Paris)**

– *Preparation*

1. The Commission services representative explained the positions proposed in the Commission non-paper ahead of the upcoming meeting, going through the relevant items on the agenda.

2. Eight delegations took the floor with positive views on the proposed EU positions, with two delegations entering scrutiny reservations. One delegation requested the possibility to send additional comments.
3. The Commission services representative noted that the time for examination of the non-paper was not sufficient for some delegations and suggested to wait a few more days to allow for all interested delegations to express their views.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the proposals by the Commission and input by delegations and set a deadline for written comments on the following Monday cob.

3. **EU-UK and EU-UK-Norway consultations on sprat**

– *Examination of the Commission non-paper*

1. The Commission services representative presented the Commission services non-paper on bilateral EU-UK and trilateral EU-UK-NO consultations on fishing opportunities for sprat.
2. Three delegations took the floor to express their views and ask questions, to which the Commission services representative replied.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the comments made by delegations and the Commission and that it had agreed on the non-paper containing the EU positions to be taken in the upcoming consultations with the UK and with the UK and Norway on sprat.

4. **EU-Mauritania SFPA negotiations**

– *State of play of the negotiations and next steps*

1. The European Commission services representative briefed on the state of play as regards the negotiations of a new protocol under the EU-Mauritania SFPA.
2. Numerous delegations took the floor to comment on the topic and to ask questions, to which the European Commission services representative responded.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the debrief and next steps as regards the negotiations with Mauritania.

5. Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (8-12 June)

– *Information from the Commission*

1. The Commission services representative briefed the Working Party ahead of the PSMA working group meeting.
2. One delegation intervened with comments.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had been informed by the Commission of the work on the PSMA and taken note of the comments made by one delegation.

6. EU-UK consultations on the joint management of brown crab

– *Examination of the Presidency compromise*

1. The Presidency presented the revised compromise prepared on the basis of delegations' comments and earlier discussions.
2. Five delegations expressed their views and two of them entered scrutiny reservations.
3. The Commission services representative reflected on the proposed compromise and noted its support for the text as it stands.
4. The Presidency noted that the Working Party had examined the revised Presidency compromise, and a written consultation would be launched to confirm the delegations' agreement.

7. EU-UK consultations on rebuilding strategies

– *Examination of the Presidency compromise*

1. The Presidency presented the revised compromise prepared on the basis of delegations' comments and earlier discussions.
2. Four delegations took the floor with positive scrutiny reservations and expressing their support for the Presidency's efforts to bring about a compromise.

3. The Commission services representative expressed a positive view of the revised Presidency compromise under discussion. She further explained that this proposed mandate would only be a first step and that further specification of the EU's position would be subject to new Commission proposals and delegation's input, while noting the importance of rebuilding declining stocks and the legal obligations in that respect.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had examined the revised Presidency compromise and a written consultation would be launched to confirm the delegations' agreement.

8. Draft EU statement for the UNFSA ICSP 2026: implications of the BBNJ Agreement for Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

– *Approval*

1. The Presidency recalled that the Working Party had examined a draft statement at its previous meeting. Delegations had expressed comments, and the Commission services had revised the text.
2. The Commission services representative presented the revised draft statement and said a coordination meeting would be held at the EU delegation office in New York on the morning of 20 May. He asked whether member states representatives would be travelling to the meeting.
3. Several delegations intervened with comments, to which the Commission services representative responded, some signalling scrutiny reservations and some saying they would confirm whether they would be travelling to the meeting.
4. The Presidency reminded delegations that the date of the meeting was approaching, the draft statement didn't involve a political commitment and that the aim was for them to take note.
5. The Council Legal Service representative intervened to clarify the procedure involved.
6. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had taken note of the Commission's revised draft statement and of the comments and positions expressed by delegations. He said any further comments should be submitted to the Commission services.

9. EU – Greenland SFPA: Experimental fishery for cod in Northeast Greenland 2026

– Exchange of views

1. The Commission services representative informed the Working Party of the establishment by Greenland of an experimental cod fishery for 2026 and of work already done internally in response to the announcement.
2. Several delegations intervened and the Commission services representative responded.
3. The Presidency indicated that a technical meeting with member states would be needed to identify the next steps. He concluded that the Working Party had been informed by the Commission, had taken note of the interest expressed by delegations, and would revert to the matter after the technical meeting.

10. Any other business
