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**NOTE**

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Subject: MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS - JANUARY 2019

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This document lists the acts<sup>1</sup> adopted by the Council in January.<sup>2 3</sup>

It provides information on the adoption of legislative acts, including:

- the date of adoption,
- the relevant Council session,
- the number of the document adopted,
- the Official Journal reference,
- applicable voting rules, voting results and, where appropriate, explanations of vote and statements published in the minutes of the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> For easy reference, the "short titles" as mentioned in the Council's agendas are also indicated (see in *italics*).

<sup>2</sup> With the exception of certain acts of limited scope such as procedural decisions, appointments, decisions of bodies set up by international agreements, specific budgetary decisions, etc.

<sup>3</sup> In the case of legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure, there may be a difference between the date of the Council's meeting where the legislative act is adopted and the actual date of the act in question, since legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure are only considered to have been adopted after signature by both the President of the Council and the President of the European Parliament and the Secretaries-General of the two institutions.

This document also contains information on the adoption of non-legislative acts that the Council has decided to make public.

This document is also available on the Council's website at:

[Monthly summaries of Council acts \(acts\) - Consilium](#)

Documents listed in the summary may be obtained from the public register of Council documents at: [Documents and publications - Consilium](#)

It should be noted that this document is exclusively for information purposes - only Council minutes are authentic. These are available on the Council's website at: [Council Minutes - Consilium](#)

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**INFORMATION ON THE ACTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2019**

**3667th meeting of the Council of the European Union (General Affairs) held in Brussels on 8 January 2019**

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Switzerland Schengen Information System</i>                      Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Switzerland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System</p>	15202/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Finland Schengen Information System</i>                      Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Finland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System</p>	15565/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Belgium visa policy</i>                      Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Belgium on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the common visa policy</p>	15563/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - The Netherlands visa policy</i>                      Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of The Netherlands on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the common visa policy</p>	15571/18

<i>Restrictive measures to combat terrorism - Common Position 2001/931/CFSP</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/25 of 8 January 2019 amending and updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2018/1084 OJ L 6, 9.1.2019, p. 6–9	15413/18
<i>Restrictive measures to combat terrorism - Common Position 2001/931/CFSP</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/24 of 8 January 2019 implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1071 OJ L 6, 9.1.2019, p. 2–5	15415/18
<i>Conclusions on second progress report on risk management</i> Council Conclusions on the Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan for Customs Risk Management	15497/18
<b>Written procedure completed on 9 January 2019</b>	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2019/29 of 9 January 2019 implementing Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Mali OJ L 8, 10.1.2019, p. 30–33	15863/18
<b>3668th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Foreign Affairs) held in Brussels on 21 January 2019</b>	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Conclusions on Nicaragua	5110/19

<p><i>Council Decision within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Annex IX (Financial Services) to the EEA Agreement (Central Securities Depositories Regulation)</i>  Council Decision (EU) 2019/134 of 21 January 2019 on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee, concerning the amendment of Annex IX (Financial Services) to the EEA Agreement (Text with EEA relevance)  OJ L 25, 29.1.2019, p. 19–22</p>	15338/18
<p><i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation Chemical Weapons restrictive measures - listings</i>  Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/86 of 21 January 2019 amending Decision (CFSP) 2018/1544 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons  OJ L 18I, 21.1.2019, p. 10–12</p>	15749/18
<p><i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation Chemical Weapons restrictive measures - listings</i>  Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/84 of 21 January 2019 implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1542 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons  OJ L 18I, 21.1.2019, p. 1–3</p>	15750/18
<p><i>Council Implementing Decision and Implementing Regulation Syria restrictive measures - new listings</i>  Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2019/87 of 21 January 2019 implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria  OJ L 18I, 21.1.2019, p. 13–18</p>	5171/19
<p><i>Council Implementing Decision and Implementing Regulation Syria restrictive measures - new listings</i>  Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/85 of 21 January 2019 implementing Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria  OJ L 18I, 21.1.2019, p. 4–9</p>	5173/19
<p><i>Democratic People's Republic of Korea restrictive measures - delisting EU designations - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i>  Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/96 of 21 January 2019 amending Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea  OJ L 19, 22.1.2019, p. 9–10</p>	15439/18

<p><i>Democratic People's Republic of Korea restrictive measures - delisting EU designations - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i>  Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/93 of 21 January 2019 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea  OJ L 19, 22.1.2019, p. 3–4</p>	15441/18
<p><i>Restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine - de listing - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i>  Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/95 of 21 January 2019 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine  OJ L 19, 22.1.2019, p. 7–8</p>	15422/18
<p><i>Restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine - de listing - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i>  Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/92 of 21 January 2019 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine  OJ L 19, 22.1.2019, p. 1–2</p>	15425/18
<p><i>Council Decision on EU position in SADC-EU EPA Council regarding adoption of Rules of Procedure for Dispute Avoidance and Settlement and Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and Mediators</i>  Council Decision (EU) 2019/117 of 21 January 2019 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Joint Council established under the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the SADC EPA States, of the other part, as regards the adoption of the Rules of Procedure for dispute avoidance and settlement and the Code of Conduct for arbitrators and mediators  OJ L 24, 28.1.2019, p. 12–22</p>	15617/18
<p><i>EU-ASEAN</i>  <i>Exchange of views</i>  Council Conclusions on EU-ASEAN relations</p>	5729/19

**3669th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Economic and Financial Affairs) held in Brussels on 22 January 2019**

## NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
<i>Status Agreement with Serbia on actions carried out by EBCG Agency in Serbia</i> <i>Council Decision on the signing</i> Council Decision (EU) 2019/400 of 22 January 2019 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Status Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia on actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in the Republic of Serbia OJ L 72, 14.3.2019, p. 1–3	15576/18
<i>Conclusions on the annual growth survey</i> Council Conclusion on European Semester 2019 - Annual Growth Survey: Macroeconomic and Fiscal Guidance to Member States	5601/19
<i>Conclusions on the alert mechanism report</i> Council Conclusions on Alert Mechanism Report 2019	5603/19

**3670th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Agriculture and Fisheries) held in Brussels on 28 January 2019**

## LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT	VOTING RULE	VOTES
<i>Regulation on the apportionment of tariff rate quotas after UK withdrawal from the EU</i> Regulation (EU) 2019/216 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 January 2019 on the apportionment of tariff rate quotas included in the WTO schedule of the Union following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 32/2000 OJ L 38, 8.2.2019, p. 1–25	71/1/18 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
<b>Statement by the Commission</b>  The Commission fully adheres to the principles of Better Regulation and to the commitments laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making. It will therefore endeavour to put forward a legislative proposal to the Council and to the European Parliament at the earliest opportunity, with a view to aligning Regulation (EC) No 32/2000 to the legal framework introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.			
<i>Horizontal Bilateral Safeguard Regulation</i> Regulation (EU) 2019/287 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 February 2019 implementing bilateral safeguard clauses and other mechanisms allowing for the temporary withdrawal of preferences in certain trade agreements concluded between the European Union and third countries OJ L 53, 22.2.2019, p. 1–13	68/1/18 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour



**Joint statement of the European Parliament and the Commission**

The European Parliament and the Commission agree on the importance of close cooperation concerning the implementation of the Agreements listed in the Annex to the Regulation (EU) 2019/ of the European Parliament and the Council of implementing the safeguard clauses and other mechanisms allowing for the temporary withdrawal of preferences in certain agreements concluded between the European Union and certain third countries. To that end they agree that where the European Parliament adopts a recommendation to initiate a safeguard investigation, the Commission will carefully examine whether the conditions under the Regulation for ex-officio initiation are fulfilled. Where the Commission considers that those conditions are not fulfilled, it will present a report to the committee responsible of the European Parliament including an explanation of all the factors relevant to the initiation of such an investigation

## NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
<i>Conclusions on carbon capture and storage (CCS) and renewables (CoA SR No 24/2018)</i> Council Conclusions on the Special Report No. 24/2018 by the European Court of Auditors entitled 'Demonstrating carbon capture and storage and innovative renewables at commercial scale in the EU: intended progress not achieved in the past decade'	5367/19
<i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Latvia SIS</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Latvia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System	5289/19
<i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation Tunisia</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/135 of 28 January 2019 amending Decision 2011/72/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Tunisia OJ L 25, 29.1.2019, p. 23–24	15573/18
<i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation Tunisia</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/132 of 28 January 2019 implementing Regulation (EU) No 101/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Tunisia OJ L 25, 29.1.2019, p. 12–13	15575/18

<p><i>Council Decision on the conclusion of the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean agreement with Morocco</i></p> <p>Council Decision on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part</p>	<p>10593/18</p>
<p><b>Declaration by Denmark, Finland, Germany and Ireland</b></p> <p>Denmark, Finland, Germany and Ireland stress the importance of a strong political and economic partnership between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco.</p> <p>Denmark, Finland, Germany and Ireland underline the importance of complying with EU law, of which international law may be considered an integral part when entering into bilateral agreements. We have taken careful note of the “Contribution of the Council Legal Service on the Draft Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part – consistency with the Court”.</p> <p>Denmark, Finland, Germany and Ireland have consistently emphasized that an agreement has to be consistent with the judgment of the Court of Justice handed down on 21 December 2016 in Case C-104/16 P.</p> <p>We take the content and form of the Contribution as evidence that the Council Legal Service considers that entering into the presented agreement is fully consistent with the judgment of the Court of Justice handed down on 21 December 2016 in Case C-104/16 P and does not prejudice the status of Western Sahara. Denmark, Finland, Germany and Ireland continue to support the United Nations process to find a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution for Western Sahara.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Ireland support the adoption of the Council decision on the conclusion of the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement.</p>	

<p><i>Council Decision on the conclusion of the EU-China Agreement in relation to WTO Dispute Settlement case 492</i>  Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the People's Republic of China in connection with DS492 European Union - Measures affecting Tariff Concessions on Certain Poultry Meat Products</p>	10882/18
<p><i>Council Decision on the EU position within the EU-Japan EPA WG on wine</i>  Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Working Group on Wine established by the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership as regards the forms to be used for certificates for the import of wine products originating in Japan into the European Union and the modalities concerning self-certification</p>	15724/18
<b>Written procedure completed on 30 January 2019</b>	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
<p>Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 of 30 January 2019 fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters  OJ L 29, 31.1.2019, p. 1–166</p>	15733/18
<p><b>Statement on quota exchanges for southern hake, anglerfish and megrims in division 8c (Spain and Portugal)</b>  Spain and Portugal will agree on necessary quota swaps for hake, anglerfish and megrims in the Iberian waters to avoid "choke" situations.</p>	

**Statement on by-catch reduction plans and control measures (North West Waters Group, i.e. Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, and the Commission)**

Member States cooperating in the North-Western Waters, in close cooperation with the North Western Waters Advisory Council, will prepare a by-catch reduction plan to ensure that by-catches of the stocks for which ICES has issued zero catch advice for 2019 are reduced through selectivity or avoidance measures. To this end the Member States concerned will submit to the Commission a by-catch reduction plan at the latest on 30 April 2019. By-catch reduction plans will contain measures such as more selective gears, area closures, real time closures, avoidance measures and move-on rules. They may build on the latest relevant discard plans. The by-catch reduction plans should be adapted to the species in question and be chosen from the above catalogue of measures according to the specificities of each fishery. The plans will be assessed by the STECF regarding their effectiveness. The Chair of the North Western Waters Group will report to the Commission by 1 October every year on progress achieved with the by-catch reduction plan.

In line with the Control Regulation, the Member States will undertake all appropriate control measures to ensure that by-catches of the stocks for which ICES has issued zero catch advice for 2019 are strictly unavoidable and that no discards take place beyond levels allowed by the discard plan. By 1 July 2019 the Member States concerned will inform the Commission of the control measures taken.

**Statement on commitment to solve choke species of Member States with zero quota allocation by swaps (North West Waters Group, i.e. Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom)**

The Member States concerned will endeavour to undertake the necessary swaps to avoid choke situations for the following stocks, covering the needs from Member States without quota allocation in those stocks:

- Saithe, POK 7/3411
- Sole, SOL/7BC.
- Sole, SOL/5614
- Sole, SOL/7FG
- Cod, COD/5W6-14
- Plaice, PLE/56-14
- Plaice, PLE/7BC

The amount of quota exchanged from this list should aim at allowing Member States without quota allocation to effectively operate from 1st of January 2019 covering the estimated unavoidable by-catches from each Member State.

Member States receiving the swaps will provide in exchange quotas from Annex IA of the Fishing Opportunities Regulation.

Member States commit themselves to make efforts to find a compromise and to arrange fair quota swaps by using a market exchange rate or other mutually acceptable exchange rates. In absence of alternatives, the equivalent economic value in accordance to the average EU prices of the previous year, as provided by EUMOFA, will be used.

**Statement on sentinel fishery for Norway lobster in functional unit 31 (Commission)**

Spain has submitted a request for a sentinel fishery for Norway lobster in functional unit 31, which could allow collecting necessary catch/landing data for that functional unit. On the basis of this request, the Commission will ask ICES to:

- Assess a level of catches that would minimise impact on the stock but would be sufficient to allow collection of LPUE data for potential use as an abundance index;
- Suggest any specific conditions that should apply to the fishery, and data collected, in order for it to be useful in an abundance index context – i.e. trips, timeframe, geographical area, etc.

Following the scientific advice the Commission will consider submitting an appropriate proposal for amending the 2019 fishing opportunities.

**Statement on whiting in subarea 8 (Commission)**

The Commission will request updated scientific advice from ICES for whiting in ICES subarea 8 taking into account the latest information on discard levels. On the basis of the scientific advice, if appropriate, the Commission will consider proposing an amendment to the 2019 fishing opportunities.

**Statement on by catches of greater silver smelt and boarfish (Commission)**

As regards greater silver smelt, Spain has submitted a request to remove subarea 7 from the TAC, which currently covers subareas 5, 6 and 7 (ARU/567).

As regards boarfish, Spain has submitted a request to remove subareas 8b and 8c from the TAC, which currently covers subareas 6, 7 and 8 (BOR/678).

On the basis of these requests, the Commission will ask ICES in early 2019 to assess what consequences such removals would have upon these stocks, in particular whether the removals would have any impact on the requirement to ensure that the stocks concerned are exploited sustainably in the short and middle term. ICES will be further requested to assess whether the application of other conservation tools in absence of TACs for greater silver smelt in subarea 7 and for boarfish in subarea 8 could contribute to the sustainable management of the stocks concerned.

Following the scientific advice, if appropriate, the Commission will consider submitting a proposal for amending the 2019 fishing opportunities.

**Statement on inter-area flexibility for different biological stocks (Commission)**

The Commission will submit a request to ICES to provide scientific advice on whether the inter-area flexibility would be sustainable, also in the long term, noting that the current scientific advice indicates that this flexibility would apply to two different stocks. The following requests will be submitted:

MS	Species	From	To	% flexibility requested	Conditions
Belgium	Haddock	2a, 4	7b-k	10%	5% (FR) 7d only (IE)
Belgium	Plaice	7d	7fg	5%	Bycatch sole fishery
Belgium	Whiting	7b-k	8	5%	Bycatch sole fishery
France/Spain	Pollack	7	8abde	5%	2% flexibility exists
France	Whiting	2a, 4	7b-k	5%	7d only (IE)
France/Spain	Skates & rays	6, 7	8, 9	10%	
France	Plaice	7fg	7hjk	5%	

**Statement on de minimis deduction for whiting and cod in the North sea (COM and North Sea Member States)**

The Commission takes note of the intention of the Member States of the North Sea Regional Group to submit a revised joint recommendation amending the de minimis exemption for whiting and cod for the vessels using bottom trawls (OTB, OTT, SDN, SSC) of mesh size 70-99mm (TR2) in Southern North Sea (ICES subarea 4c), and the de minimis exemption for whiting and cod for the vessels using bottom trawls (OTB, OTT, SDN, SSC) of mesh size 70-99mm (TR2) in Central and Northern North Sea (ICES subareas 4a and 4b).

Provided that the revised discard plan is adopted, following the STECF assessment, the Commission will consider, if appropriate, submitting a proposal for an in-year amendment to the 2019 fishing opportunities regulation adjusting the level of the TACs for whiting and cod to take into account the revised permitted discard rate.

**Statement on the level of unavoidable whiting by-catches in the Irish Sea (Commission)**

The Commission will submit an urgent request to ICES to provide updated scientific advice on unavoidable by-catch levels of whiting in the Irish Sea mixed fisheries in 2019. Following this advice, the Commission will consider submitting as soon as possible a proposal for amending the level of the TAC in the 2019 fishing opportunities.

**Statement on Hague Preferences (Belgium, Denmark, France and Germany)**

Belgium, Denmark, Germany and France are of the opinion that the scales for the allocation of quotas for Member States were agreed upon in 1983. These scales constitute the basis of relative stability, which is a principle established by the Basic Regulation governing the Common Fisheries Policy. It is our opinion that Hague preferences are contrary to the principle of relative stability.

**Statement on Cod in the Celtic Sea (United Kingdom)**

The UK calls for a review of the 2019 TAC for Cod in 7bc,e-k, and that the TAC should reflect the landing statistics in 2018, applied within the ICES Celtic Sea mixed fisheries model.

**Statement on the Regional Groups (United Kingdom)**

Where the 2019 TAC and Quota Regulation or other associated documents make reference to the Regional Groups or High Level Groups, the United Kingdom would like to remind interested parties that after 29 March 2019 the UK will no longer be a Member State and possibly no longer able to attend these meetings or be directly involved in their decisions or recommendations.

The United Kingdom would encourage all relevant parties to agree, in due course, a mechanism for the views of the United Kingdom to be taken into account during any meetings relevant to the United Kingdom during the transitional period.



**Statement on the review of Landing Obligation (United Kingdom)**

The United Kingdom considers that in the first year of full implementation of the landing obligation it is appropriate for the Commission, in partnership with relevant parties, to undertake a review of the operation of the Landing Obligation across all waters and stocks.

The review should be completed in time for any measures to be considered and applied in time to improve its operability in the second half of 2019 as required.

The review should consider all aspects relevant to the effective implementation to the landing obligation including:

- TAC levels;
- the operation of quota swaps, especially in relation to stocks subject to zero TAC advice;
- implementation of the prohibition or TAC removal for relevant stocks.

**Statement on Hague preferences (Ireland)**

Ireland considers that the Hague Preference constitutes an integral part of relative stability, reflecting the need to safeguard the special needs of regions where local populations are especially dependent on fisheries and related industries. This is specifically recognised in Community fisheries policy and was set down in Council Regulation No 170/83, Council Regulation No 3760/92, Council Regulation No 2371/2002. It has again been restated in Council Regulation No 1380/2013.

**Statement on the quota exchange mechanism (Latvia)**

Latvia considers that the approach initiated by the members of the North West Waters Group to solve the choke species problem via a quota exchange mechanism, should be seen as an ad hoc solution, applicable and limited to the waters and species specified by this Regulation. This proposal should not prejudice any other approaches to be considered as the most appropriate solution to choke species problem in other regions, including the Baltic Sea where Latvia still believes that the most appropriate solution is the application of inter-species flexibility which has been used to settle the problem in the Baltic so far.