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NOTE

from : Permanent Representation of Lithuania 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 Lithuania on the subject mentioned above.

Subject: Lithuania notes and proposals concerning the draft Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel

First of all we would like to emphasize that fishing in inland waters are strictly regulated by national law in Lithuania, therefore the Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel should be mainly focused on the restocking measures and on the restriction of the export of glass eel , without quite drastic bans on the commercial eel fishing. Also we are sending you our notes and proposals concerning some provisions of the draft Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel:

- the shortening of the eel fishing season foreseen in Article 2 and reduction by 50 % of eel catches foreseen in Article 9 should not be such drastic and as we already pointed above. First of all should be foreseen restocking measures and the restriction of the glass eel export.
- the deadline for submitting of Eel Management Plan foreseen in Article 5 and time frame for preparation and implementation of this plan foreseen in Article 7 should be prolonged, particularly when there is the need jointly with other member States and / or third countries to prepare Joint Eel management Plan.
- the provision of Article 6 (6) on the reducing of eel mortality caused by hydroelectric turbines and other fixed installations is quite unclear, therefore methods, instruments and the question of the responsibility for the implementation should be clarified as well as the financing mechanism for these measures should be foreseen. In our view, first of all should be collected data on the current state of mortality and impact assessment performed, only after that the exact reduction of eel mortality could be aimed.
- there is no reference in Article 8 what are the indications and time frame for the evidence that coordination with the third countries regarding Eel management Plan is complicated. Lithuania notes that such Joint Management Plans can be foreseen only if there is an initiative from all countries (particularly, third countries for which regulation won't be compulsory) involved in eel fishing within the same area (e.g. in the case of Lithuania-Russia Federation).

- the implementation of requirements on control provisions in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy would be complicated, because methods of eel fishing in inland waters is specific and most provisions of regulation No 2371/2002 concerning the control could not be putted into practice.

Deputy director

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