



Council of the
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DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
26 and 27 May 2021

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MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021

Any other business

Fisheries

7. a) **Bilateral EU-UK consultations for fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022** 9045/21
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the state of play in the EU-UK consultations as presented by the Commission. The Council also took note of the views expressed by delegations, which reiterated support for the Commission's approach in continuing to seek a comprehensive agreement with the UK.

- b) **Current situation in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies** 8961/1/21 REV 1
Information from the Spanish, French, Maltese, Cyprus, Croatian and Irish delegations

At the request of the Spanish and French delegations, the Council took note of the situation in the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies. It also noted the views expressed by delegations, in particular as concerns the need to avoid an imbalanced outcome that could seriously affect the EU's fisheries industry.

MEETING ON THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021

AGRICULTURE

Non-legislative activities

8. **Organic farming - action plan for the development of EU organic production** 8809/21
Presentation by the Commission
Exchange of views

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission and of the views expressed by delegations on the content of the action plan for the development of the Union's organic production. The Council would return to this subject at one of its future meetings.

Any other business

9. a) **Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the opportunities and challenges for farmers stemming from the Farm to Fork strategy** 8733/21

Information from the Polish delegation, on behalf of the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovakian delegations

The Council took note of the Declaration by Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the opportunities and challenges for farmers stemming from the Farm to Fork strategy.

The Council also took note of the response by the Commission.

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in doc. 8804/21

Ad "A" item 17: **Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on an EU-Angola investment facilitation agreement**
Adoption

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

"The Commission considers it legally incorrect that a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations indicates a substantive legal basis.

The Decision authorising the opening of negotiations is premised solely on the existence of conferred powers of the Union and not on a determination of a specific competence. Its effect is limited to authorising the Commission or the High Representative, as the case may be, to use its prerogatives under the EU Treaties in order to start negotiations. The scope of these negotiations is therefore determined by the scope of the powers of the Union. Besides, the freedom of the envisaged treaty partner of the Union as regards the determination of the scope of the negotiations cannot be limited by the Council Decision authorising the opening of the negotiations. Thus, the precise legal basis for the future agreement can only be determined after the content of the agreement is known.

The Commission reserves all its rights in this regard."
