



Brussels, 30 May 2022
(OR. fr)

9511/22

LIMITE

PECHE 182

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	EU support for the Aquatic/Blue Food Coalition at the UN Ocean Conference - Approval of a non-binding instrument

1. At a side event at the UN Ocean Conference (27 June – 1 July 2022), the EU and other delegations will be asked to publicly pledge their support for the Aquatic/Blue Food Coalition, one of several global coalitions formed following the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021 to ensure more inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems by 2030. More specifically, the Aquatic/Blue Food Coalition aims to:
 - realise the full potential of sustainable aquatic foods;
 - promote the integration of blue foods into decision-making and policies that can sustain a growing population in a changing climate;
 - contribute to a thriving blue economy and resilient communities.
2. On 16 May 2022, the European Commission informed the Council of its intention to support the Aquatic/Blue Food Coalition, on behalf of the EU, on the basis of the text contained in 9509/22 (pp. 5-8). That text would constitute a non-binding instrument that does not result from a negotiation and will not be subject to a negotiation, although the Commission has informed the Council that finalisation of its exact wording would be needed.

3. The Working Party on Fisheries Policy examined the text on 19 May and agreed that the EU should pledge its support.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is accordingly asked to:
- confirm the approval, agreed by the Working Party, of EU support for the Aquatic/Blue Food Coalition;
 - suggest that the Council, at a forthcoming meeting, approve the text of the instrument as set out in 9509/22 (pp. 5-8), and authorise the Commission, if necessary, to accept minor amendments to the text, provided that these do not affect the substance and purpose of the text.
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