



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ADDENDUM TO THE "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council

to : COREPER / COUNCIL

Subject : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels
(first reading)

- Adoption of the legislative act **(LA + S)**

= Statement

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline for Croatia: 3.6.2013

Joint Declaration of Spain and Portugal

Portugal and Spain deeply regret the adoption of the amended Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council for a fin-attached policy, abandoning the current fin-to-carcass weight regime foreseen in the Council Regulation (EC) 1185/2003. Portuguese and Spanish operators are not involved in "finning" practices and there is no risk of sustainability associated with the surface sharks they catch.

The amended regulation will severely damage the economic viability of the Union long line fleet, preventing or hampering the activity of dozens of vessels with the consequent loss of jobs. Moreover, this modification will not solve the practice of finning by Third Country fleets that accounts for 93% of world shark catches, being such regrettable practices completely unaffected by this legislation and continue damaging the sustainability of these fisheries.

PT and ES insist that the EU delegations to the relevant RFMOs continue to demand the introduction of a finning ban so that effective practice of finning will no longer be performed at a global level.