



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Brussels, 13 December 2019

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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Subject: Coreper I meeting on 11 December 2019

Summary

Coreper prepared the **Agriculture and Fisheries Council**, taking place on 16 and 17 December 2019. out of scope



Coreper had an exchange on the **Atlantic and North Sea Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for 2020**, ahead of the Council negotiations towards a political agreement. The Commission recalled the two main parameters to be taken into account for 2020: the legally binding maximum sustainable yield; and the fact that all northern sea basins will be covered by multiannual plans for the first time. It noted the situation of EU fisheries is overall encouraging, leaving some room to grant flexibility where necessary and urged Member States to find solutions in line with scientific advice. Delegations presented their main political priorities. Delegations (**ES, FR, IT, IE, DE, BE, LT, DK, SE**) expressed doubts on the Commission proposed control measures, alleging the time for implementation would too short, or that such measures should not be taken in the context of an annual TACs and quotas regulation. The Commission reacted by urging a solution that would prevent deterioration and collapse of fish stocks, and warning that previous experience from the October Council with urgent need to take difficult decisions should not become a precedent repeated.

out of scope



pages 2-3 were removed from the document as they fall entirely out of scope of the request

Detailed reporting:

out of scope



2. Atlantic and North Sea Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for 2020 – *political agreement*

The Presidency recalled its objective to reach a political agreement on this file during the upcoming AGRIFISH Council, which should be in line with the common fisheries policy, the multiannual plans and the available scientific advice.

The Commission presented the main principles of its proposal by referring to two main legal requirements, by which both Council and the Commission are bound: reaching maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2020 and the need for effective recovery measures in line with the provisions of the multiannual plans. As regards the economic analysis, the overall fleet is doing well with an average profit margin of 20%, so there is scope for action on ailing stocks, e.g. to fish more selectively in the Celtic Sea. Credible action is particularly important in the context of the European Green Deal. The Commission called for actions to be taken already next week to avoid the need to take more serious ones further down the line, referring in particular to the situation in the Baltic Sea.

Member States recalled their key priorities and key stocks already stated at working party level and during technical trilateral meetings.

Member States emphasised the need to meet the sustainability objective and follow scientific advice, but they also asked to use the flexibility granted by the multiannual plans to take socio-economic considerations into account and avoid choke situations (DE, DK, ES, FR, IE, UK). The vast majority (BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, PT, LT) also reiterated their opposition to control measures in the Fishing opportunities Regulation, as this was a horizontal issue that should be tackled in the Control Regulation. On the Celtic Sea mixed fisheries, ES, FR, IE, UK voiced concerns about the TAC level for cod. Affected Member States (BE, FR, IE, UK) recognised the need for technical measures in this sea basin. DE, DK and SE stressed the need to conclude the 2020 EU-Norway fisheries consultations before the start of the Council.

Contact: Art 4(1)b [REDACTED] DG MARE

3. out of scope [REDACTED]

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