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Agriculture and Fisheries

Luxembourg, 12 June 2012

President **Ms Mette GJERSKOV**
Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark

P R E S S

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Main results of the Council

*As regards fisheries, within the framework of the common fisheries policy (CFP) reform package, the ministers reached a general approach on a proposal for a **regulation on the CFP** and a proposal on a **common organisation of markets in fisheries and aquaculture products**. Then the Council took note of a progress report from the Presidency concerning the **European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF)**.*

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

Belgium:

Mr Olivier BELLE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Bulgaria:

Mr Tzvetan DIMITROV

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food

Czech Republic:

Mr Jakub DÜRR

Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Ms Mette GJERSKOV
Mr Anders MIKKELSEN
Ms Hanne LAUGER

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Deputy State Secretary
Head of Office, Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Germany:

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Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Mr Robert KLOOS

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Estonia:

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Minister for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Simon COVENEY

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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Mr Andreas PAPASTAVROU

Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE
Ms Rosa María QUINTANA

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Environment
Minister for Rural Environment and for the Sea of the Autonomous Community of Galicia

France:

Mr Frédéric CUVILLIER

Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

Italy

Mr Mario CATANIA

Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy

Cyprus:

Mr Sofoclis ALETRARIS

Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

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Mr Edwards SMILTĒNS

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Lithuania:

Mr Edvardas RAUGALAS

Deputy Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Romain SCHNEIDER

Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister for Sport, Minister with responsibility for Economic Solidarity

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Mr Olivér VÁRHELYI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Malta:

Mr Patrick MIFSUD

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

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Minister for Agriculture and Foreign Trade

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State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

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State Secretary for Maritime Affairs

Romania:

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State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Slovenia:

Mr Branko RAVNIK

State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment

Slovakia:

Ms Magdaléna LACKO-BARTOŠOVÁ

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Finland:

Mr Jari KOSKINEN

Mr Risto ARTJOKI

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Sweden:

Mr Eskil ERLANDSSON

Minister for Rural Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Jim PAICE

Mr Richard BENYON

Mr Richard LOCHHEAD

Mr Alun DAVIES

Ms Michelle O'NEILL

Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, (Natural Environment and Fisheries)

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment (Scottish Government)

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes (Welsh Government)

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister (Northern Ireland Assembly)

Commission:

Ms Maria DAMANAKI

Member

The Government of the Acceding State was represented as follows:

Croatia:

Ms Snježana ŠPANJOL

Deputy Minister for Agriculture

ITEMS DEBATED

REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The Council reached an agreement on a general approach on the two main regulation proposals of the common fisheries policy (CFP) reform "package":

- Proposal for a regulation on the CFP ([12514/11](#)) replacing the basic provisions of the CFP;
- Proposal for a regulation on the common organisation (CMO) of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products ([12516/11](#)), focussing on market policy issues;

In addition the Council took note of the Presidency's progress report ([10276/1/12](#)) on a proposal for a regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) ([17870/11](#)) replacing the existing European Fisheries Fund.

General approach on the main proposals of the CFP reform

This general approach constitutes a political agreement within the Council on the CFP reform pending the future first-reading position of the European Parliament.

With regard to the basic regulation on the CFP, the compromise supported by a majority of delegations developed proposals for several outstanding issues.

Maximum sustainable yields (MSY): the compromise aims to achieve MSY by 2015 where possible (e.g when scientific advice on the stocks are available) and by 2020 at the latest. A consultation with third countries concerned will be initiated in case when the stocks are shared.

Multiannual plans: the compromise establishes that member states should manage fisheries in more detail through quantifiable targets linked to biological parameters as well as safeguard and remedies. It applies the MSY to the significant stocks in multiannual plans while specific measures applies to other stocks with an approach taking into account interactions between stocks.

Landing obligation and discards ban: a gradual approach of the policy is proposed but the aim is still the elimination of discards. Concerning the landing obligation in identified fisheries a specification through multiannual plans within a fixed timeframe is laid down.

Regionalisation: this concept is supported by a vast majority of member states as it accepts that one size does not fit all. The compromise introduces also an alternative model for regionalisation where member states adopt national measures through regional cooperation.

Advisory councils: the compromise foresees the creation of additional advisory councils namely one for the Black Sea and one for outermost regions of the EU.

Transferable fishing concessions (TFCs) and capacity management: as requested by many delegations, the agreement stipulates that TFC systems should be voluntary. Exemptions are made possible in the case of the implementation of an action plan and a specific report in accordance with the EMFF.

On CMO of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products, there is a broad agreement on many issues, in particular the support to fishery and aquaculture producer organisations. In addition, proposals were established through the general approach:

Storage aid: the compromise considers the reduction in intervention measures proposed initially by the Commission with a deadline.

Consumer information: in addition to the horizontal food information regulation (1169/2011), conditions for displaying voluntary information are highlighted. The framework allowing the Commission to develop an EU sustainability label are set.

The following topics of both regulations have to be further scrutinised after the general approach, namely:

- recitals and definitions;
- the choice and formulation of Commission powers to adopt delegated acts or implementing acts (alignment of the text on the Lisbon Treaty).

EMFF

The progress report presented by the Presidency sets out state of play and describes views expressed by delegations in relation a series of main outstanding issues. It identifies the main achievements on the issue and the points which should be discussed further.

A vast majority of delegations have welcomed this progress report. There was in particular a general agreement within the Council on the increased support to the aquaculture sector by the EMFF.

The EMFF proposal must be seen in the context of Commission's proposal for a multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020 as well as the package for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which is designed to lay down the legislative framework for the same period.

In July 2011, the Council held an initial public exchange of views on Commission proposals for the reform of the CFP

In addition, as regards this reform, the Council held policy debates in March on the three main proposals for regulations in the CFP reform "package": basic provisions of the CFP, CMO of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products and the EMFF. The debate on the proposal for a regulation on the CFP focussed on the issue of a discard ban. Also in March, the Council unanimously agreed on conclusions on the external dimension of the CFP .

In April, the policy debates in the Council covered regionalisation and transferable fishing concessions (TFCs), two specific issues raised in the basic provisions of the CFP. In May, the policy debate focused on achieving environmental sustainability through maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and the integration of environmental law requirements into the proposal covering the basic provisions of the CFP. Another debate on the EMFF took place at the same meeting.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

FISHERIES

Partnership agreement between EU and Mozambique - New protocol adopted

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of a new protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the fisheries partnership agreement between the EU and the Republic of Mozambique ([18059/11](#)).

The partnership agreement in the fisheries sector between the EU and Mozambique was concluded in 2007. The main objective of the protocol to this agreement is to define the fishing opportunities offered to EU vessels as well as the financial contribution due, separately, for access rights and for sectoral support. Following the negotiations, a new protocol was initialled on 2 June 2011 as the previous protocol expired on 31 December 2011. In order to allow EU vessels to carry out fishing activities, the new protocol had be signed and applied on a provisional basis, pending the completion of the procedures for its formal conclusion.
