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COMMON POSITION OF ESTONIA, FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY, POLAND, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN ON EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND

Member States that subscribe this document consider that the adoption of the EFF Regulation is urgent. In order to get this objective, we present the next compromise proposal that means a big effort to move in the direction to get a consensus based in a balanced agreement, departing from the Presidency and Commission compromise presented in the Fisheries Council of June 2005 (doc. DS 330/05):

- Change of engines

In the framework of the Commission Communication on the crisis of the fishing industry, measures should be developed in the FIFG and in the EFF to permit the replacement and/or modernisation of engines on board of the fishing vessels at a global ratio 1:1, with no increase fishing capacity.

- Emergency measures on fuel crisis

Scrapping and temporary tie-ups should be permitted during the FIFG programming period with an EFF financing, as an emergency measure.

- Modernisation

Aids to modernisation works should be permitted (both on and under the deck) if there is no increase of the fishing capacity, except in the cases where provisions of art.11.5 of Regulation 2371/2002 apply.

- GT and Kw Bank

A formula to be applied to the fishing fleet of each Member State should permit to reintroduce part of the fishing capacity withdrawn with public aid during a given period of time in the Fleet Register, to attend the needs of safety, working conditions and hygiene in the fishing vessels.

A percentage to be agreed of that withdrawn fishing capacity may be used by each Member State to modernize fishing vessels and/or to construct new vessels. Subsidiarity should be applied on each Member State to look the best way to apply these mechanisms.

A more favourable treatment will be given to the coastal fishing vessels in this respect

- Aids to temporary tie-up schemes

Mechanisms should be established that serves to increase the EFF expenditure percentage during all the programming period to give aids to temporary tie-ups, including the ones derived from all types of management plans.

- Eligibility of the enterprises to receive aid for aquaculture, marketing and processing

The same conditions agreed in the framework on the rural development fund should be applied in the EFF (article 28 of Regulation (CE) 1698/2005).

These aspects are of a very important nature to get a final compromise, but other points could be raised during the pending negotiations.