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Agriculture and Fisheries

Brussels, 14 and 15 December 2015

President **Fernand Etgen**
Luxembourg's Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Consumer Protection

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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.

ITEMS DEBATED

FISHERIES

Fishing opportunities 2016 for certain fish stocks in EU and non-EU waters

The Council reached a political agreement on fishing opportunities for 2016 for EU vessels in Union and certain non-Union waters on the basis of a Presidency compromise, drawn up in agreement with the Commission. This agreement concerns both fish stocks which are not subject to international negotiations or agreements and stocks which are subject to international negotiations or agreements.

Those fishing opportunities are set under the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reformed in 2013. The new CFP establishes that decision-making such as fixing fishing opportunities must be guided, among other things, by scientific advice. Furthermore, the new CFP aims to restore and maintain a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of the fish stocks and provides for a progressive elimination of discards in all EU fisheries through the introduction of an obligation to land all catches.

The Council will adopt the regulation on fishing opportunities using a written procedure, after finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts.

As the existing provisions in the area of the proposal are applicable until 31 December 2015, with the exception of certain effort limitations which are applicable until 31 January 2016, the regulation will apply from 1 January 2016 onwards.

The following table sets out the indicative values of the principal TACs for 2016 compared with those for 2015 and the Commission proposal. Some figures (cells in grey) were corrected or adjusted. Technical errors can however still be found in the table.

Species Latin name	Species English name	Espèces nom français	ICES fishing zone	COUNCIL TACs 2016 (UE)	COUNCIL TACs 2015 (UE)	COUNCIL comparison 2016/2015	COMMISSION Proposal for 2016	Commis. Prop. 2016/ Council TAC 2015 comparison	Comments
ANNEX IA - SKAGERRAK, KATTEGAT, ICES zones I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV, EU waters of CECAF, French Guiana waters									
Ammodytes spp.	Sandeel	Lançon	Norwegian waters of IV (SAN/04-N)	**0**	0	Not relevant	0	Not relevant	
Ammodytes spp.	Sandeel and associated by-catches	Lançon et prises accessoires associées	EU waters of IIa, IIIa and IV (SAN/2A3A4)	**0**	357.219	Not relevant	0	Not relevant	
Argentina silus	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	I & II (EU and internat. waters) (ARU/1/2)	**90**	90	0%	90	0%	
Argentina silus	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	III & IV (EU waters) (ARU/34-C)	**1.028**	1.028	0%	1.028	0%	
Argentina silus	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	EU and internat. Waters of V, VI, VII (ARU/567)	**4.316**	4.316	0%	3.453	-20%	
Brosme brosme	Tusk	Brosmes	EU and internat. waters of I, II & XIV (USK/1214EI)	**21**	21	0%	21	0%	
Brosme brosme	Tusk	Brosmes	IIIa, EU waters of subdivisions 22-32 (USK/3A/BCD)	**29**	29	0%	29	0%	
Brosme brosme	Tusk	Brosmes	EU waters of IV (USK/04-C)	**235**	235	0%	235	0%	
Brosme brosme	Tusk	Brosmes	EU and internat. waters of V, VI, and VII (USK/567EI)	**937**	937	0%	937	0%	
Brosme brosme	Tusk	Brosmes	Norwegian waters of IV (USK/04-N)	**170**	170	0%	0	-100%	(1)
Caproidae	Boarfish	Sanglier	Union and international waters of VI, VII and VIII (BOR/678)	**42.637**	53.296	-20%	42.637	-20%	
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	IIIa (HER/03A)	**43.671**	37.188	17%	43.671	17%	(2)
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	EU and Norwegian waters of IV north of 53°30' N (HER/4AB)	**310.945**	267.197	16%	310.945	16%	(2)
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (HER/04-N)	**1184**	1.093	8%	1184	8%	(1)
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	Herring by-catches in IIIa (HER/03A-BC)	**6659**	6.659	0%	6659	0%	(2)

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Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	by-catches in IV, VIId and in EU waters of IIa (HER/2A47DX)	**13.162**	15.744	-16%	13.162	-16%	(2)
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	IVc, VIId (HER/4CXB7D)	**57007**	48.986	16%	57007	16%	(2)
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	EU and internat. waters of Vb and VIb and VIaN (HER/5B6ANB)	**0**	22.690	-100%	0	-100%	
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	VIaS, VIIb-c (HER/6AS7BC)	**0**	0		0		
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	VIa Clyde (HER/06ACL)	**To be established**	To be established		To be established		
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	VIIa (HER/07A/MM)	**4.575**	4.854	-6%	4.575	-6%	
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	VIIe-f (HER/7EF)	**930**	930	0%	930	0%	
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	VIIg, h, j, k (HER/7G-K)	**15.442**	19.198	-20%	15.652	-18%	
Engraulis encrasicolus	Anchovy	Anchois	VIII (ANE/08.)	**25.000**	25.000		25.000		
Engraulis encrasicolus	Anchovy	Anchois	IX, X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANE/9/3411)	**10.622**	9.656	10%	9.656	0%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	Skagerrak (COD/03AN.)	**4651**	4.035	15%	4.651	15%	(2)
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	Kattegat (COD/03AS)	**370**	100	270%	120	20%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	IV, EU waters of IIa, the part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and Kattegat (COD/2A3AX4)	**27.930**	24.227	15%	27.930	15%	(2) Additional allocation for fully doc. fisheries (+12%)
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (COD/04-N)	**382**	382	0%	382	0%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	VIb; EU & internat. waters of Vb west of of 12˚00'W and of XII & XIV (COD/5W6-14)	**74**	74	0%	74	0%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	VIa, EU & internat. waters of Vb east of 12˚00'W (COD/5BE6A)	**0**	0		0		

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Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIa (COD/07A)	**146**	182	-20%	146	-20%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIb-c, VIIe-k, VIII, IX & X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (COD/7XAD34)	**4.565**	5.072	-10%	3.569	-30%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	VIId (COD/07D)	**1.961**	1.701	15%	1.961	15%	(2)
Lepidorhombus spp.	Megrims	Cardines	EU waters of IIa & IV (LEZ/2AC4-C)	**2.639**	2.083	27%	2.639	27%	
Lepidorhombus spp.	Megrims	Cardines	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb; intern. Waters of XII & XIV (LEZ/56-14)	**5.214**	4.129	26%	5.214	26%	
Lepidorhombus spp.	Megrims	Cardines	VII (LEZ/07)	**18.254**	17.385	5%	17.405	0%	
Lepidorhombus spp.	Megrims	Cardines	VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIId, VIIIe (LEZ/8ABDE)	**1.802**	1.716	5%	1.721	0%	
Lepidorhombus spp.	Megrims	Cardines	VIIIc, IX & X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (LEZ/8C3411)	**1.363**	1.377	-1%	1.013	-26%	
Limanda limanda and Platichthys flesus	Dab and Flounder	Dabé et Flet	EU waters of IIa and IV (DAB/2AC4-C & FLE/2AC4-C)	**18.434**	18.434	0%	14.747	-20%	
Lophiidae	Anglerfish	Baudroie	EU waters of IIa and IV (ANF/2AC4-C)	**11.267**	9.390	20%	11.627	24%	
Lophiidae	Anglerfish	Baudroie	Norwegian waters of IV (ANF/04-N)	**1.500**	1.500	0%	1.500	0%	(1)
Lophiidae	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VI, EU & internat. waters of Vb, int. waters of XII & XIV (ANF/561214)	**6.375**	5.313	20%	6.375	20%	
Lophiidae	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VII (ANF/07)	**33.516**	33.516	0%	29.534	-12%	
Lophiidae	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VIIIa,b,d,e (ANF/8ABDE)	**8.980**	8.980	0%	7.914	-12%	
Lophiidae	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANF/8C3411)	**2.569**	2.987	-14%	2.413	-19%	
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	IIIa, EU waters of 22-32 (HAD/3A/BCD)	**3.761**	2.399	57%	3.761	57%	(2) including 20,5% top up

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Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	IV, EU waters of IIa (HAD/2AC4)	**47.688**	34.197	39%	47.688	39%	(2) includ. 14,5% top up
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (HAD/04-N)	**707**	707	0%	707	0%	(1)
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	VIb; XII and XIV (EU and internat. waters) (HAD/6B1214)	**3.225**	2.580	25%	3.225	25%	
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	EU and internat. water of Vb, VIa (HAD/5BC6A)	**6.462**	4.536	42%	6.462	42%	Including 9,8% top up
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	VIIb-k, VIII, IX, X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HAD/7X7A34)	**7.258**	8.342	-13%	6.078	-27%	
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	VIIa (HAD/07A)	**1.654**	1.181	40%	589	-50%	Including 355t top up
Merlangius merlangus	Whiting	Merlan	IIIa (WHG/03A)	**1031**	1.031	0%	1031	0%	(2)
Merlangius merlangus	Whiting	Merlan	IV; EU waters of IIa (WHG/2AC4)	**12.610**	13.060	-3%	8.543	-35%	(2)
Merlangius merlangus	Whiting	Merlan	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII and XIV (WHG/56-14)	**213**	263	-19%	213	-19%	
Merlangius merlangus	Whiting	Merlan	VIIa (WHG/07A)	**80**	80	0%	80	0%	
Merlangius merlangus	Whiting	Merlan	VIIb-h, and VIIj-k (WHG/7X7A-C)	**22.778**	17.742	28%	20.616	16%	Including 20,4% top up
Merlangius merlangus	Whiting	Merlan	VIII (WHG/08)	**2.540**	3.175	-20%	2.540	-20%	
Merlangius merlangus	Whiting	Merlan	IX, X. EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHG/9/3411)	**pm**	To be established		pm		

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Merlangius merlangus and Pollachius pollachius	Whiting and Pollack	Merlan et Lieu jaune	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (WHG/04-N)&(POL/04-N)	**190**	190	0%	190	0%	(1)
Merluccius merluccius	Hake	Merlu	IIIa; EU waters of subdivisions 22-32 (HKE/3A/BCD)	**2.997**	2.738	9%	2.913	6%	Northern hake with top up 11% (VI, VII) and top up 8,6% (VIIIabde) *10% IIa, IV may be fished in IIIa*
Merluccius merluccius	Hake	Merlu	EU waters of IIa and IV (HKE/2AC4-C)	**3.492**	3.190	9%	3.393	6%	
Merluccius merluccius	Hake	Merlu	VI, VII; EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII, XIV (HKE/571214)	**61.902**	50.944	22%	60.185	18%	
Merluccius merluccius	Hake	Merlu	VIIIa-b, VIIId-e (HKE/8ABDE)	**40.393**	33.977	19%	39.259	16%	
Merluccius merluccius	Hake	Merlu	VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HKE/8C3411)	**10.735**	13.826	-22%	5.469	-60%	Including 3,5% top up
Micromesistius poutassou	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	Norwegian waters of II and IV (WHB/4AB-N)	**0**	0		0		
Micromesistius poutassou	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	EU and international waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIIIa,b,d,e, XII and XIV (WHB/1X14)	**207.657**	197.195	5%	207.567	5%	
Micromesistius poutassou	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	VIIIc, IX and X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/8C3411)	**29.914**	32.287	-7%	29.914	-7%	
Micromesistius poutassou	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	EU waters of II, IVa, V, VI north of 56˚30N and VII west of 12˚W (WHB/24A567)	**Not relevant**	Not relevant		Not relevant		
Microstomus kitt & Glyptocephalus cynoglossus	Lemon sole and witch flounder	Limande sole et plie grise	EU waters of IIa and IV (LEM/2AC4-C) (WIT/2AC4-C)	**6.391**	6.391	0%	5.848	-8%	

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Molva dypterigia	Blue ling	Lingue bleue	EU waters and internat. waters of Vb, VI, VII (BLI/5B67)	**4.746**	4.746	0%	4746	0%	
Molva dypterigia	Blue ling	Lingue bleue	International waters of XII (BLI/12INT)	**446**	558	-20%	446	-20%	
Molva dypterigia	Blue ling	Lingue bleue	EU and international waters of II, IV (BLI/24)	**53**	53	0%	53	0%	
Molva dypterigia	Blue ling	Lingue bleue	EU and international waters of III (BLI/03)	**8**	8	0%	8	0%	
Molva molva	Ling	Lingue	EU and internat, waters of I, II (LIN/1/2)	**36**	36	0%	36	0%	
Molva molva	Ling	Lingue	IIIa, EU waters of IIIb-d (LIN/3A/BCD)	**87**	87	0%	87	0%	
Molva molva	Ling	Lingue	EU waters of IV (LIN/04-C)	**2912**	2.428	20%	2912	20%	
Molva molva	Ling	Lingue	EU and internat. waters of V (LIN/05EI)	**33**	33	0%	33	0%	
Molva molva	Ling	Lingue	EU waters and internat. waters of VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV (LIN/6X14)	**10.297**	8.464	22%	10.497	24%	
Molva molva	Ling	Lingue	Norvegian waters of IV (LIN/04-N)	**950**	1.100	-14%	950	-14%	(1)
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IIIa; EU waters of subdivisions 22-32 (NEP/3A/BCD)	**11.001**	5.318	107%	11.001	107%	
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	EU waters of IIa and IV (NEP/2AC4-C)	**13.700**	17.843	-23%	13.700	-23%	Including 3,1% top up
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	Norwegian waters of IV (NEP/04-N)	**1.000**	1.000	0%	1.000	0%	(1)
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb (NEP/5BC6)	**16.524**	14.190	16%	16.524	16%	Including 1,5% top up
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VII (NEP/07)	**23.348**	21.619	8%	19.534	-10%	Including 10,2% top up
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VIII a, b, d, e (NEP/8ABDE)	**3.899**	3.899	0%	3.214	-18%	

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Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VIIIc (NEP/08C)	**48**	60	-20%	48	-20%	
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (NEP/9/3411)	**320**	254	26%	305	20%	
Pandalus borealis	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	IIIa (PRA/03A)	**6.519**	4.074	60%	6.519	60%	(2)
Pandalus borealis	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	EU waters of IIa and IV (PRA/2AC4-C)	**2.446**	2.446	0%	2.446	0%	
Pandalus borealis	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Norwegian waters south of 62°00' N (PRA/04-N)	**529**	480	10%	529	10%	(1)
Penaeus spp.	'Penaeus' shrimps	Crevette royale	French Guiana (PEN/FGU)	**To be established**	To be established		To be established		
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	Skagerrak (PLE/03AN)	**11.531**	9.855	17%	11.531	17%	(2)
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	Kattegat (PLE/03AS)	**2.347**	2.626	-11%	2.347	-11%	Including 40,5% top up
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	IV; EU waters of IIa; that part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and Kattegat (PLE/2A3AX4)	**122.494**	119.690	2%	122.494	2%	(2) Includ. 19,8% top up
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb, internat. waters of XII and XIV (PLE/56-14)	**658**	658	0%	658	0%	
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	VIIa (PLE/07A)	**1.098**	1.098	0%	878	-20%	
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	VII b, c (PLE/07BC)	**74**	74	0%	74	0%	
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	VII d, e (PLE/07DE)	**12.446**	6.223	100%	10.143	63%	
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	VII f, g (PLE/7FG)	**420**	461	-9%	420	-9%	

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Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	VII h, j, k (PLE/7HJK)	**135**	135	0%	135	0%	
Pleuronectes platessa	Plaice	Plie	VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (PLE/8/3411)	**395**	395	0%	395	0%	
Pollachius pollachius	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb, internat. waters of XII, XIV (POL/56-14)	**397**	397	0%	397	0%	
Pollachius pollachius	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VII (POL/07)	**13.495**	13.495	0%	10.796	-20%	
Pollachius pollachius	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VIII a, b, d, e (POL/8ABDE)	**1.482**	1.482	0%	1.186	-20%	
Pollachius pollachius	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VIIIc (POL/08C)	**231**	231	0%	231	0%	
Pollachius pollachius	Pollack	Lieu jaune	IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (POL/9/3411)	**282**	282	0%	282	0%	
Pollachius virens	Saithe	Lieu noir	IIIa and IV; EU waters of IIa,b,c,d (POK/2A34)	**31.284**	31.383	0%	31.284	0%	(2) Includ.5,7% top up
Pollachius virens	Saithe	Lieu noir	VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb, XII and XIV (POK/56-14)	**5.948**	6.348	-6%	5.948	-6%	(2)
Pollachius virens	Saithe	Lieu noir	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (POK/04-N)	**880**	880	0%	880	0%	(1)
Pollachius virens	Saithe	Lieu noir	VII, VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (POK/7/3411)	**3.176**	3.176	0%	3.176	0%	
Psetta maxima & Scophthalmus rhombus	Turbot and brill	Turbot et barbue	EU waters of IIa and IV (TUR/2AC4-C) (BLL/2AC4-C)	**4.488**	4.642	-3%	4.488	-3%	
Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of IIa and IV (SRX/2AC4-C)	**1.313**	1.256	5%	1.005	-20%	
Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of IIIa (SRX/03A-C)	**47**	47	0%	38	-19%	

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Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of VIa-b, VIIa-c and VIIe-k (SRX/67AKXD)	**8.032**	8.032	0%	6.426	-20%	
Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of VIId (SRX/07D)	**966**	798	21%	638	-20%	
Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of VIII et IX (SRX/89-C)	**3.420**	3.420	0%	3.078	-10%	
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	EU waters of IIa and IV; EU and internat. waters Vb and VI (GHL/2A-C46)	**1400**	1500	-7%	1400	-7%	
Scomber scombrus	Mackerel	Maquereau	IIIa and IV; EU waters of IIa, IIIb-c and Subdivisions 22-32 (MAC/2A34)	**31.241**	36.338	-14%	31.241	-14%	(2)
Scomber scombrus	Mackerel	Maquereau	VI, VII, VIII a-b, VIIId-e; EU and internat. waters of Vb; Internat. waters of Iia, XII, XIV (MAC/2CX14)	**357.587**	420.692	-15%	357.587	-15%	(2)
Scomber scombrus	Mackerel	Maquereau	VIIIc, IX, X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (MAC/8C3411)	**40.918**	48.138	-15%	40.918	-15%	(2)
Scomber scombrus	Mackerel	Maquereau	Norvegian waters of IIa and IVa (MAC/2A4A-N.)	**14.043**	16.521	-15%	14.043	-15%	(1)
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	IIIa; EU waters of Subdivisions 22-32 (SOL/3A/BCD)	**391**	205	91%	391	91%	Includ. 3,2% top up
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	EU waters of IIa and IV (SOL/24-C)	**13.252**	11.890	11%	12.056	1%	Includ. 1,4% top up
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII, XIV (SOL/56-14)	**57**	57	0%	57	0%	
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIa (SOL/07A)	**40**	90	-56%	0	-100%	
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIb-c (SOL/7BC)	**42**	42	0%	42	0%	
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VIId (SOL/07D)	**3.258**	3.483	-6%	2.580	-26%	Includ. 8,6% top up
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIe (SOL/07E)	**979**	851	15%	979	15%	

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Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIf, g (SOL/7FG)	**779**	851	-8%	750	-12%	Includ. 0,6% top up
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIh, j, k (SOL/7HJK)	**382**	382	0%	382	0%	
Solea solea	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIIa, b (SOL/8AB)	**3.420**	3.800	-10%	2.393	-37%	
Solea spp.	Sole	Sole	VIIIc, d, e, IX, X. EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (SOO/8CDE34)	**1.072**	1.072	0%	1.072	0%	
Sprattus sprattus	Sprat and associated by-catches	Sprat et prises accessoires associées	IIIa (SPR/03A)	**30.784**	30.784	0%	30.784	0%	(2)
Sprattus sprattus	Sprat and associated by-catches	Sprat et prises accessoires associées	EU waters of IIa and IV (SPR/2AC4-C)	**330.000**	341.000	-3%	324.500	-5%	
Sprattus sprattus	Sprat	Sprat	VIId-e (SPR/7DE)	**5.150**	5.150	0%	5.150	0%	
Squalus acanthias	Spurdog/ dogfish	Aiguillat/ chien de mer	EU waters of IIIa (DGS/03A-C)	**0**	0		0		
Squalus acanthias	Spurdog/ dogfish	Aiguillat/ chien de mer	EU waters of IIa and IV (DGS/2AC4-C)	**0**	0		0		
Squalus acanthias	Spurdog/ dogfish	Aiguillat/ chien de mer	EU and intern. waters of I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV	**0**	0		0		
Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel and associated by-catches	Chinchard et prises accessoires associées	EU waters of IVb, IVc, VIId (JAX/4BC7D)	**11.650**	11.650	0%	11.650	0%	
Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel and associated by-catches	Chinchard et prises accessoires associées	EU waters of IIa, IVa, VI, VIIa-c, VIIe-k, VIIIa,b,d,e; Vb; EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII & XIV (JAX/2A-14)	**105.021**	84.032	25%	124403	48%	
Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	VIIIc (JAX/08C)	**17.235**	13.572	27%	17.235	27%	
Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	IX (JAX/09)	**68.583**	59.500	15%	68.583	15%	

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Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	X: EU waters of CECAF - Azores (JAX/X34PRT)	To be established			To be established		
Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	EU waters of CECAF Madeira Islands (JAX/341PRT)	To be established			To be established		
Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	EU waters of CECAF - Canary Islands (JAX/341SPN)	To be established			To be established		
Trisopterus esmarki	Norway pout and associated by-catches	Tacaud norvégien	IIIa; EU waters of IIa, IV (EC waters) (NOP/2A3A4)	**129.000**	128.000	1%	91.500	-29%	
Trisopterus esmarki	Norway pout and associated by-catches	Tacaud norvégien	Norwegian water of IV (NOP/04-N)	**0**	0		0		
		Industrial fish	Norwegian waters of IV (I/F/4AB-N)	**800**	800	0%	800	0%	(1)
		Other species	EU waters of Vb; VI and VII (OTH/5B67-C)	**Not relevant**	Not relevant		Not relevant		
		Other species	Norwegian waters IV (OTH/04-N)	**8000**	7250	10%	8000	10%	(1)
		Other species	EU waters of IIa, IV and VIa north of 56˚30N (OTH/2A46AN)	**Not relevant**	Not relevant		Not relevant		
ANNEX IB - NORTH EAST ATLANTIC AND GREENLAND - ICES SUBAREAS I, II, V, XII, XIV AND GREENLAND WATERS OF NAFO 1									
Clupea harengus	Herring	Hareng	EU and Internat. waters of I and II (HER/1/2)	**20.629**	18.424	12%	20.629	12%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	Norwegian waters of I and II (COD/1N2AB)	**17.547**	22.036	-20%	17.457	-21%	(1)
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	Greenland waters of NAFO 1, Greenland waters of XIV (COD/N1GL14)	**2.100**	2.000	5%	2.100	5%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	Internat. waters of I and IIb (COD/1/2B)	**33.176**	33.176	0%	33.176	0%	

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Gadus morhua and Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Cod and haddock	Cabillaud et églefin	Faroese waters of Vb (C/H/05B-F)	**950**	950	0%	950	0%	
Hippoglossus hippoglossus	Atlantic halibut	Flétan	Greenland waters of V, XIV (HAL/514GRN)	**0**	125	-100%	0	-100%	
Hippoglossus hippoglossus	Atlantic halibut	Flétan	Greenland waters of NAFO 1 (HAL/N1GRN)	**0**	125	-100%	0	-100%	
Macrourus spp.	Grenadiers	Grenadiers	Greenland waters of V and XIV (GRV/514GRN)	**100**	120	-17%	100	-17%	
Macrourus spp.	Grenadiers	Grenadiers	Greenland waters of NAFO 1 (GRV/N1GRN)	**100**	120	-17%	100	-17%	
Mallotus villosus	Capelin	Capelan	IIb (CAP/02B)	**0**	0		0		
Mallotus villosus	Capelin	Capelan	Greenland waters of V, XIV (CAP/514GRN)	**0**	3.100	-100%	0	-100%	
Melanogrammus aeglefinus	Haddock	Eglefin	Norwegian waters of I, II (HAD/1N2AB)	**1.100**	1.288	-15%	1.100	-15%	(1)
Micromesistius poutassou	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	Faroese waters (WHB/2A4AXF)	**2.500**	2.000	25%	2.500	25%	
Molva molva and Molva dypterigia	Ling and Blue ling	Lingue et lingue bleue	Faroese waters of Vb (B/L/05B-F)	**2.100**	1.500	40%	2.100	40%	
Pandalus borealis	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Greenland waters of V and XIV (PRA/514GRN)	**1.375**	1.650	-17%	1.375	-17%	
Pandalus borealis	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Greenland waters of NAFO 1 (PRA/N1GRN)	**2.600**	2.000	30%	2.600	30%	
Pollachius virens	Saithe	Lieu noir	Norwegian waters I, II (POK/1N2AB)	**2.550**	2.550	0%	2.550	0%	(1)
Pollachius virens	Saithe	Lieu noir	International waters of I and II (POK/1/2INT)	**0**	0		0		

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Pollachius virens	Saithe	Lieu noir	Faroese waters of Vb (POK/05B-F)	**3.000**	3.000	0%	3.000	0%	
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Norwegian waters of I and II (GHL/1N2AB)	**50**	50	0%	50	0%	(1)
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	International waters of I and II (GHL/12/INT)	**2000**	0		0		
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Greenland waters of NAFO 1 (GHL/N1GRN)	**1.925**	1.925	0%	1.925	0%	
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Greenland waters of V and XIV (GHL/514GRN)	**4.515**	3.880	16%	4.515	16%	
Sebastes spp.	Redfish (shallow pelagic)	Sébaste	EU and internat. waters of V ; internat. waters of XII and XIV (RED/51214S)	**0**	0		0		
Sebastes spp.	Redfish (deep pelagic)	Sébaste	EU and internat. waters of V ; internat. waters of XII and XIV (RED/51214D)	**1.313**	1.468	-11%	1.313	-11%	
Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	Norwegian waters of I and II (RED/1N2AB)	**1.500**	1.500	0%	1.500	0%	(1)
Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	Internat. Waters of I and II (RED/1/2INT)	**Not relevant**	Not relevant		Not relevant		
Sebastes spp.	Redfish (pelagic)	Sébaste	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and V, XIV (RED/N1F14P)	**1.050**	1350	-22%	1.050	-22%	
	Redfish (demersal)	Sébaste	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and V, XIV (RED/N1F14D)	**1.700**	2000	-15%	1.700	-15%	
Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	Icelandic waters of Va (RED/05A-IS)	**0**	0		0		
Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	Faroese waters of Vb (RED/05B-F)	**500**	1.100	-55%	500	-55%	
	Other species		Norwegian waters of I, II (OTH/1N2AB)	**350**	350	0%	350	0%	(1)
	Other species		Faroese waters of Vb (OTH/05B-F)	**800**	800	0%	800	0%	

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	Flatfish		Faroese waters of Vb (FLX/05B-F)	**100**	300	-67%	100	-67%	
	By-catches		Greenland waters (B-C/GRL)	**1.126**			1.126		
ANNEX IC - NORTH WEST ATLANTIC - NAFO CONVENTION AREA									
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 2J3KL (COD/N2J3KL)	**0**	0	0%	0	0%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 3NO (COD/N3NO.)	**0**	0	0%	0	0%	
Gadus morhua	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 3M (COD/N3M)	**7.945**	7.867	1%	7.945	1%	
Glyptocephalus cynoglossus	Witch flounder	Plie grise	NAFO 2J3KL (WIT/N2J3KL)	**0**	0	0%	0	0%	
Glyptocephalus cynoglossus	Witch flounder	Plie grise	NAFO 3NO (WIT/N3NO.)	**288**	133	117%	288	117%	
Hippoglossoides platessoides	American Plaice	Faux Flétan	NAFO 3M (PLA/N3M.)	**0**	0	0%	0	0%	
Hippoglossoides platessoides	American Plaice	Faux Flétan	NAFO 3LNO (PLA/N3LNO.)	**0**	0	0%	0	0%	
Illex illecebrosus	Shortfin squid	Calmar à nageoires courtes	NAFO sub-zones 3 and 4 (SQI/N34)	**Not relevant**	Not relevant		Not relevant		
Limanda ferruginea	Yellowtail flounder	Limande à queue jaune	NAFO 3LNO (YEL/N3LNO)	**0**	0		0		
Mallotus villosus	Capelin	Capelan	NAFO 3NO (CAP/N3NO.)	**0**	0		0		
Pandalus borealis	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	NAFO 3L (PRA/N3L)	**0**	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	
Pandalus borealis	Nothern prawn	Crevette nordique	NAFO 3M (PRA/N3M)	**Not relevant**	Not relevant		Not relevant		
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	NAFO 3LMNO (GHL/N3LMNO)	**6.430**	6.768	-5%	6.430	-5%	
Rajidae	Skate	Raie cendrée	NAFO 3LNO (SKA/N3LNO)	**4.408**	4.408	0%	4.408	0%	

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Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3LN (RED/L3LN)	**1.896**	1.896	0%	1896	0%	
Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3M (RED/N3M)	**7.813**	7.813	0%	7.813	0%	
Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3O (RED/N3O)	**7.000**	7.000	0%	7.000	0%	
Sebastes spp.	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO Subarea 2, divisions 1F and 3K (RED/N1F3K.)	**0**	0		0		
Urophycis tenuis	White hake	Merluche blanche	NAFO 3NO (HKW/N3NO)	**588**	588	0%	588	0%	
ANNEX ID - HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH - ALL AREAS									
Thunnus thynnus	Bluefin tuna	Thon rouge	Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45°W and Mediterranean (BFT/AE045W)	**11.204**	9.373	20%	11.204	20%	
Xiphias gladius	Swordfish	Espadon	Atlantic Ocean, north of latitude 5° N (SWO/AN05N)	**7.686**	8.347	-8%	7.686	-8%	
Xiphias gladius	Swordfish	Espadon	Atlantic Ocean, south of latitude 5° N (SWO/AS05N)	**5.601**	5.695	-2%	5.601	-2%	
Thunnus alalunga	Northern Albacore	Thon blanc	Atlantic Ocean, north of latitude 5° N (ALB/AN05N)	**24.542**	26.939	-9%	24.542	-9%	
Thunnus alalunga	Southern Albacore	Thon blanc	Atlantic Ocean, south of latitude 5° N (ALB/AS05N)	**1.837**	1.719	7%	1.837	7%	
Thunnus obesus	Bigeye tuna	Thon obèse	Atlantic Ocean (BET/ATLANT)	**23.789**	29.467	-19%	23.789	-19%	
Makaira nigricans	Blue marlin	Makaire bleu	Atlantic Ocean (BUM/ATLANT)	**408**	528	-23%	408	-23%	
Tetrapturus alba	White marlin	Makaire blanc	Atlantic Ocean (WHM/ATLANT)	**24**	52	-54%	24	-54%	
ANNEX IE - ANTARCTIC - CCAMLR CONVENTION AREA									
Champsocephalus gunnari	Mackerel icefish	Poisson des glaces antarctique	FAO 48.3 Anatarctic (ANI/F483)	**3.461**	2.659	30%	3.461	30%	(3)

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Champsocephalus gunnari	Mackerel icefish	Poisson des glaces antarctique	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic (ANI/F5852)	**482**	309	56%	482	56%	(3)
Chaenocephalus aceratus	Blackfin icefish	Grande-gueule antarctique	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (SSI/F483)	**2200**	2.200	0%	2.200	0%	(3)
Channichtyx rhinoceratus	Unicorn icefish	Grande gueule	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic (LIC/F5852)	**1663**	150	1009%	1663	1009%	(3)
Dissostichus eleginoides	Patagonian toothfish	Légine australe	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (TOP/F483)	**2750**	2.400	15%	2750	15%	(3)
Dissostichus eleginoides	Patagonian toothfish	Légine australe	FAO 48.4 Antarctic north (TOP/F484N)	**47**	42	12%	47	12%	(3)
Dissostichus mawsoni	Antartic Toothfish	Légine antartique	FAO 48.4 Antarctic south (TOP/F484S)	**39**	28	39%	39	39%	(3)
Dissostichus eleginoides	Patagonian toothfish	Légine australe	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic (TOP/F5852)	**3405**	4.410	-23%	3.405	-23%	(3)
Euphausia superba	Krill	Krill	FAO 48 (KRI/F48)	**5.610.000**	5.610.000	0%	5.610.000	0%	(3)
Euphausia superba	Krill	Krill	FAO 58.4.1 Antarctic (KRI/F5841)	**440.000**	440.000	0%	440.000	0%	(3)
Euphausia superba	Krill	Krill	FAO 58.4.2 Antarctic (KRI/F5842)	**2.645.000**	2.645.000	0%	2.645.000	0%	(3)
Gobionotothen gibberifrons	Humped rockcod	Bocasse bossue	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (NOG/F483)	**1.470**	1.470	0%	1.470	0%	(3)
Lepidonotothen squamifrons	Grey rockcod	Bocasse grise	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (NOS/F483)	**300**	300	0%	300	0%	(3)
Lepidonotothen squamifrons	Grey rockcod	Bocasse grise	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic NOS/F5852	**80**	80	0%	80	0%	(3)
Macrourus spp.	Grenadier	Grenadier	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic (GRV/F5852)	**360**	360	0%	360	0%	(3)

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Macrourus caml and Macrourus whitsoni	Caml grenadier and Whitson's grenadier	Grenadier caml et Grenadier de Whitson	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic (GR2/F5852)	**409**			409		
Macrourus spp.	Grenadier	Grenadier	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (GRV/F483)	**138**	120	15%	138	15%	(3)
Macrourus spp.	Grenadier	Grenadier	FAO 48.4 Antarctic (GRV/F484)	**13**	11	18%	13	18%	
Notothenia rossii	Marbled rockcod	Bocasse marbrée	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (NOR/F483)	**300**	300	0%	300	0%	(3)
Paralomis spp.	Crab	Crabe	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (PAI/F483)	**0**	0	0%	0	0%	(3)
Pseudochaenichthys georgianus	South Georgia icefish	Crocodile de Géorgie	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (SIG/F483)	**300**	300	0%	300	0%	(3)
Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et raies	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic (SRX/F5852)	**120**	120	0%	120	0%	(3)
Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et raies	FAO 48.3 Antarctic (SRX/F483)	**138**	120	15%	138	15%	(3)
Rajidae	Skates and rays	Requins et raies	FAO 48.4 Antarctic (SRX/F484)	**4**	3	33%	4	33%	
	Other species	Autres espèces	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic (OTH/F5852)	**50**	50	0%	50	0%	(3)
ANNEX IF - SOUTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN - SEAFO CONVENTION AREA									
Beryx spp.	Alfonsinos	Béryx	SEAFO (ALF/SEAFO)	**200**	200	0%	200	0%	(4)
Chaceon spp.	Deep-sea Red crab	Gérion ouest-africain	SEAFO Sub Division B1 (GER/F47NAM)	**190**	200	-5%	190	-5%	(4)
Chaceon spp.	Deep-sea Red crab	Gérion ouest-africain	SEAFO excluding Sub division B1 (GER/F47X)	**200**	200	0%	200	0%	(4)
Dissostichus eleginoides	Patagonian Toothfish	Légine australe	SEAFO Sub-Area D (TOP/F47D)	**264**	276	-4%	264	-4%	(4)
Dissostichus eleginoides	Patagonian Toothfish	Légine australe	SEAFO excluding sub-Area D (TOP/F47-D)	**0**	0		0		

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Hoplostethus atlanticus	Orange roughy	Hoplosthète orange	SEAFO Sub Division B1 (ORY/F47NAM)	**0**	0		0		(4)
Hoplostethus atlanticus	Orange roughy	Hoplosthète orange	SEAFO, excluding Sub Division B1 (ORY/F47X)	**50**	50	0%	50	0%	(4)
Pseudopentaceros spp	Pelagic armourhead		SEAFO (EDW/SEAFO)	**143**	143	0%	143	0%	
ANNEX IG - SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA - ALL AREAS									
Thunnus maccoyii	Southern bluefin tuna	Thon rouge	By-catches in all areas (SBF/F41-81)	**10**	10	0%	10	0%	
ANNEX IH - WCFPC CONVENTION AREA									
Xiphias gladius	Swordfish	Espadon	WCPFC area south of 20˚ S	**3.170**	3.170	0%	3170	0%	

Species Latin name	Species English name	Espèces nom français	ICES fishing zone	COUNCIL TACs 2016 (UE)	COUNCIL TACs 2015 (UE)	COUNCIL comparison 2016/2015	COMMISSION Proposal for 2016	Commis. Prop. 2016/ Council TAC 2015 comparison	Comments
ANNEX IJ - SPRFMO CONVENTION AREA									
Trachurus murphyi	Jack mackerel	Chinchard du Chili	SPRFMO Convention area (CJM/SPRFMO)	To be established	To be established		To be established		

(1) Stocks in Norwegian waters.

(2) Stocks shared with Norway.

(3) TACs adopted by the Commission for the conservation of Antartic marine living resources (CCAMLR) are not allocated to the members of CCAMLR and hence the Union's share is undetermined.

(4) These TACs are not allocated to the members of South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) and hence the Union's share is undetermined.

Fishing opportunities for 2016 in the Black Sea

Ministers reached a political agreement on a regulation fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks in the Black Sea (*14379/15*) on the basis of a Presidency compromise, drawn up in agreement with the Commission.

The Council will adopt this regulation using a written procedure, after finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts.

The main element of the Presidency compromise endorsed by the Commission is a roll-over in the EU total allowable catches (TACs) in the Black Sea for turbot and sprat.

The following table sets out the indicative values of the TACs in the Black Sea for 2016 compared with those for 2015 and the Commission proposal.

Species Latin name	Species English name	Espèces nom français	ICES fishing zone	**COUNCIL TACs 2016**	**COUNCIL TACs 2015**	**COUNCIL comparison 2016/2015**	**COMMISSION proposal for 2016**	**Commission proposal 2016/ comparison Council TAC 2015**
Psetta maxima	Turbot	Turbot	Black Sea (TUR/F3742C)	**86.4**	86.4	0%	0	-100%
Sprattus sprattus	Sprat	Sprat	Black Sea (SPR/F3742C)	**11 475**	11 475	0%	11 475	0%

No fishing opportunities in the form of catch limits have been added for piked dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) as originally proposed by the Commission.

The Council and the Commission considered that in order to address the misreporting and illegal fisheries of turbot in the Black Sea, the implementation of control and monitoring measures established since 2012 should be further improved.

In addition, the Council and the Commission agreed that existing regional cooperation on fishing in the Black Sea should be further enhanced to promote sustainable stock management in this area in particular in the framework of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), and that they would each take actions in line with their competence including possible establishment of international management measures, such as long-term management plans or catch limitations.

As regards turbot and piked dogfish, the member states concerned committed to certain measures such as reducing the number of fishing authorisations or implementing a strict policy of recording all catches.

As the existing provisions are applicable until 31 December 2015, the regulation will apply from 1 January 2016.

AGRICULTURE

Veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed

The Presidency reported to the Council on the progress achieved during the second half of 2015 on two proposals considered as a package on 'Animal medicines':

– Regulation on veterinary medicinal products

– Regulation on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of medicated feed

Many delegations highlighted the need to ensure high consistency between the two proposals of the package that are advancing at a different pace. Many delegations also considered that the provisions in these texts would help the EU to fight antimicrobial resistance efficiently - a key issue to tackle for member states.

On veterinary medicinal products, the first proposal seeks to put in place a set of rules tailored to the specificities of the veterinary sector and aiming in particular to:

– increase the availability of veterinary medicinal products

– reduce administrative burdens

– stimulate competitiveness and innovation

– improve the functioning of the internal market

– address the public health risk of antimicrobial resistance.

The second proposal reviews the current legislation on medicated feed to ensure the highest degree of animal health and welfare and public health as well as effective functioning of the internal market and competitiveness of the livestock sector with respect to the use of medicated feed. The revision of directive 90/167/EEC goes hand in hand with the revision of directive 2001/82/EC on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products.

The examination of both proposals began in the Council in the second half of 2014 during the Italian presidency and was continued under the Latvian and the Luxembourg presidencies. The first technical readings of the proposals on medicated feed and veterinary medicinal products were concluded respectively by the Latvian and the Luxembourg Presidency.

Sustainable agriculture

Ministers had an exchange of views on the foresight report on "Sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the bio-economy - A challenge for Europe" developed by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) (*14927/15*).

A majority of delegations welcomed the report outlined in the context of the preparation of an EU long-term strategy for agricultural research and innovation. They emphasised that the strategy will also strengthen the synergies between the research policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to foster innovation in the agricultural sector. While agreeing with the core priority areas for sustainable agriculture around which the strategy is built, ministers highlighted the importance of this sector as first providing food to a growing population. Some members also considered the transfer of knowledge from the research to farmers a key issue for the success of the initiative.

The fourth SCAR foresight exercise focused on the bio-economy which encompasses the production of all biomass types and the conversion of these resources and waste streams into value-added products. It addresses the multidimensional challenges of food security, energy security, climate change, environmental protection and industrial renewal. The exercise launched in spring 2014 specifically explored the interactions between agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the bio-economy with an emphasis on the future. The resulting report was presented at a public conference in Brussels on 8 October 2015. It highlights three scenarios in a long-term perspective (2050) based on varying levels of biomass supply and demand which are used to describe opportunities and risks for the different sectors.

The foresight exercise outlined the state of the bio-economy by presenting three main processing sectors that use bio-resources from the primary sector: the food-feed, materials-chemicals and fuel-energy systems. The complexity of these systems need to be tackled using a holistic and integrated approach. For future policy, a key implication of the analysis and conclusions of the foresight exercise is that the bio-economy can only thrive if it is sustainable, in terms of its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Preparation of a long-term EU strategy for agricultural research and innovation was launched in June 2015 with a workshop at Expo Milan. The strategy will be presented and discussed at a Commission conference in Brussels from 26 to 28 January 2016.

The strategy is built around five core priority areas:

– resource management and climate change

– healthier plants and animals

– integrated ecological approaches from farm to landscape level

– new openings for rural growth (territorial dynamics, food and non-food systems, etc.)

– enhancing the human and social capital in rural areas

The SCAR was established in 1974 under the CAP legislation. Its main objective was the coordination of agricultural research between member states and the European Commission. Horizon 2020 has given a new impetus to research on agriculture, forests, food and bio-based industries at EU level.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

– ***Codex alimentarius***

The Presidency summarised the key issues for the EU which were discussed in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius in 2015 (*15027/15*).

The key issues for the EU in the Codex discussions in 2015 were:

– the management of work and decision-making within the Codex system

– the proposed standard on maximum residue levels (MRLs) for recombinant Bovine Somatotropin (rBST), a milk production enhancer in dairy cattle authorised in some countries

The Presidency, certain delegations and the Commission underscored the importance for the EU and its Member States to take an active part in the Codex discussions.

– ***Quality of imported honey***

As regards honey, the EU relies largely on imports as its own production is not sufficient to meet consumers' demand. Against this background, the Hungarian, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish and Slovenian delegations expressed their concerns about the quality of honey imported into the EU, at low prices, and the consequences for the European apiculture sector (*15212/15*)

Other member states shared these delegations' concerns, highlighting the role of bees in agriculture, namely for pollination, and the need to preserve the quality of honey for consumers. They pointed out the need for the authorities to have the most suitable analytical methods for control to detect fraud both in connection with food safety and the authenticity of product. Some of the ministers also referred to the need to reinforce the current labelling of origin for honey.

A coordinated control programme conducted last year showed a high level of non compliance in honey sold in the EU. The Commission has scheduled the publication of a report on the performances of analytical methods for honey next year.

– ***School milk, fruit and vegetables schemes***

The Council was briefed by the Presidency on a tentative agreement reached with the European parliament on the proposal on school milk, fruit and vegetables schemes (*15219/15*).

A large number of delegations expressed positive views on the main points of the agreement presented by the Presidency. Among the points agreed, many ministers highlighted the level and the flexibility of transfers between allocation for the two groups of products. Some noted that the list of products is not limited to fresh products and includes processed products. Certain member states expressed reservation about the use of article 43(2) TFEU (co-decision) for issues such as the level of the aid, the criteria for fixing the aid or the transfers between allocations. The Presidency also pointed out that the school scheme is an element of the € 500 million aid package aimed at stabilising the EU market (notably in the dairy sector) and alleviating the difficult situation of EU farmers.

The school fruit and vegetables scheme and the school milk scheme are currently separate programmes (under these schemes EU aid is allocated to member states for the supply of fruit and vegetables and milk in educational establishments). In January 2014, the Commission adopted two proposals merging the schemes and amending the new single Common Market Organisation (single CMO) regulation under the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (*5958/14*) and the Council regulation fixing certain aids and refunds (*6054/14*).

The detail of the tentative agreement will be analysed further by the member states at the next meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA). The SCA will also finalise the text of the 'fixing' regulation

– ***Difficulties in the pigmeat sector***

At the request of the Polish delegation, the ministers took stock of the deteriorating situation in the pigmeat sector (*14979/15*).

Since the beginning of 2014, pigmeat prices on the market are at a very low level. The Polish delegation supported by several member states welcomed in this respect the exceptional support provided for temporary aid to farmers in the livestock and the planned launch of a private storage scheme. The member states feared, however, that those measures would be insufficient to stabilise the pigmeat market and asked for further measures. Certain member states expressed views about possible structural measures to overcome the crisis in the pigmeat sector.

The Commission confirmed that the private storage scheme will be launched at the beginning of next year and briefed ministers about possible market opportunities for pigmeat negotiated with foreign countries.

– ***Young farmers***

The Presidency briefed ministers about the outcome of a seminar organised in cooperation with the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) relating to 'Empowering young farmers – a pillar of Europe 2050'. The seminar took place from 1 to 3 July in Ettelbruck (Luxembourg) (*15012/15*).

On this issue, several member states alerted the Presidency to the importance of facilitating access to land for young farmers with a view to renewing generations of farmers.

During the seminar a 'Young Farmers declaration' was discussed before it was presented at Expo 2015 in Milan. It calls, in particular, for the facilitation of access to land and credit through public support measures, and regulation to curb unfair trading practices in the food supply chain. A conference also discussed opportunities and risks for agriculture in the framework of globalisation. In the second part of the conference, the agricultural policy for 2030 was discussed. The issue of young farmers communication with society was also raised.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

AGRICULTURE

Animal health law - Position of the Council at first reading

The Council adopted its position at first reading on a draft regulation on transmissible animal diseases ('Animal Health Law') (*11779/15*).

The animal health law aims to ensure high standards of animal and public health in the EU. It will provide a single overarching legal framework with harmonised principles across the sector, which is currently regulated by a series of linked and interrelated regulations and directives.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading in April last year. An agreement between the Council and the European Parliament was reached at a trilogue held on 1 June 2015. The Council's position at first reading is in line with the abovementioned text of the agreement, as amended to reflect the subsequent legal and linguistic revision. The vote in a plenary session of the European Parliament is expected early next year followed by Council adoption of the agreement on second reading.

Pesticides - maximum residue levels

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of two Commission regulations amending annexes II, III and V to regulation 396/2005[1] as regards:

– maximum residue levels (MRLs) for ametoctradin, chlorothalonil, diphenylamine, flonicamid, fluazinam, fluoxastrobin, halauxifen-methyl, propamocarb, prothioconazole, thiacloprid and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products (amendment of annexes II, III and V) (*13804/15*);

– maximum residue levels for chlorpyrifos in or on certain products (amendment of annexes II and III) (*13361/15*).

Regulation 396/2005 establishes the maximum quantities of pesticide residues permitted in products of animal or vegetable origin intended for human or animal consumption. These maximum residue levels (MRLs) include, on the one hand, MRLs which are specific to particular foodstuffs intended for human or animal consumption and, on the other, a general limit which applies where no specific MRL has been set. MRL applications are communicated to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which issue a scientific opinion on each intended new MRL. Based on the EFSA's opinion, the Commission proposes a regulation such as those listed above to establish a new MRL or to amend or remove an existing MRL and modifying the annexes of regulation 396/2005 accordingly.

[1] OJ L 070, 16.3.2005, p. 1.

These Commission regulations are subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulations, unless the European Parliament objects.

Derogations for transport of liquid oils and fats by sea

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission regulation amending the annex to regulation 579/2014[1] granting derogation from certain provisions of annex II to regulation 852/2004[2] as regards the transport of liquid oils and fats by sea (*13759/15*).

Regulation 579/2014 provides for a derogation from Chapter IV of Annex II to regulation 852/2004 (hygiene of foodstuffs) as regards the transport on seagoing vessels of liquid oils and fats intended for or likely to be used for human consumption under certain conditions. Some entries (forms of calcium nitrate solutions) among the list of substances acceptable to be transported in a seagoing vessel as previous cargo listed in the annex to regulation 579/2014 did not adequately describe the cargoes and caused confusion. Those entries have to be modified to make them more precise.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) confirmed that the presence of those various forms of calcium nitrate solutions has no impact in the toxicological properties and chemical reactivity compared to the substances originally listed.

This Commission regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulation, unless the European Parliament objects.

Food hygiene - Testing of arsenic, heavy metals and aromatic hydrocarbons

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of the Commission regulation amending regulation 333/2007 as regards the analysis of inorganic arsenic, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and certain performance criteria for analysis (*13778/15*).

[1] OJ L 160, 29.5.2014, p. 14
[2] OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p.1

Regulation 333/2007[1] lays down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of levels of certain contaminants in foodstuffs. This amendment provides several technical adjustments, in particular:

– specific procedures related to analysis of inorganic arsenic

– an update of the reference to the EN standard 13804

– a change for the analysis of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

– an amendment regarding the limit of detection for certain heavy metals.

This Commission regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulation, unless the European Parliament objects.

Pesticides - maximum residue levels

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of two Commission regulations amending annexes II, III and V to regulation 396/2005[2] as regards:

– maximum residue levels for 1-methylcyclopropene, flonicamid, flutriafol, indolylacetic acid, indolylbutyric acid, pethoxamid, pirimicarb, prothioconazole and teflubenzuron in or on certain products (amendment of annexes II, III and V) (*14048/15*);

– maximum residue levels for fosetyl in or on certain products (amendment of annex III) (*13992/15*)

Regulation 396/2005 establishes the maximum quantities of pesticide residues permitted in products of animal or vegetable origin intended for human or animal consumption. These maximum residue levels (MRLs) include, on the one hand, MRLs which are specific to particular foodstuffs intended for human or animal consumption and, on the other, a general limit which applies where no specific MRL has been set. MRL applications are communicated to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which issue a scientific opinion on each intended new MRL. Based on the EFSA's opinion, the Commission proposes a regulation such as those listed above to establish a new MRL or to amend or remove an existing MRL and modifying the annexes of regulation 396/2005 accordingly.

These Commission regulations are subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulations, unless the European Parliament objects.

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1 Commission Regulation (EC) No 333/2007 of 28 March 2007 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, inorganic tin, 3-MCPD and benzo(a)pyrene in foodstuffs (OJ L 88, 29.3.2007, p. 29).

2 OJ L 070, 16.3.2005, p. 1.

FISHERIES

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna - EU membership

The Council adopted a decision to conclude, on behalf of the EU, the exchange of letters to obtain membership of the Extended Commission of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) (7134/15).

The EU has been a cooperating non-member of the CCSBT since 2006 but is bound to implement its decisions. Pending the EU's full membership to the CCSBT, in October 2013, it was decided to establish an Extended CCSBT to allow the EU to become a member through an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters. The EU will, as a result, be able to play an effective role in the implementation of the Convention.

The CCSBT may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make decisions designed to maintain the populations of southern bluefin tuna at levels which will ensure the long-term sustainability of those stocks. Southern bluefin tuna are large, fast swimming, pelagic fish found throughout the southern hemisphere mainly in waters between 30 and 50 degrees south.

Migratory sharks conservation - Memorandum of understanding

The Council approved the position of the EU and its member states relating to the memorandum of understanding on the conservation of migratory sharks (sharks MoU) ahead of the second meeting of the signatories which will take place in San José (Costa Rica) from 15 to 19 February 2016.

The EU, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom are signatories to the sharks MoU. This MoU is a non-legally binding multilateral instrument, signed in November 2011 and is related to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. It is the first global instrument for the conservation of migratory species of sharks.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Acts repealed in the field of Justice and Home Affairs

The Council adopted three regulations repealing a number of acts belonging to the Schengen acquis (PE-CONS 54/15), in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters and belonging to the Schengen acquis (PE-CONS 55/15) and in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (PE-CONS 56/15) which are no longer relevant due to their temporary nature or because their content has been taken up by successive acts.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Insurance distribution

The Council adopted a directive establishing new rules on insurance distribution, improving consumer protection for insurance products.

The directive seeks to:

– improve retail insurance regulation in a manner that will facilitate market integration

– establish the conditions necessary for fair competition between distributors of insurance products

– strengthen policyholder protection, in particular with regard to life insurance products with an investment element.

The text recasts and repeals directive 2002/92/EC on insurance mediation. It clarifies a number of the directive's provisions.

TRANSPORT

Air services agreement with Bangladesh

The Council authorised the signing and provisional application of an agreement on certain aspects of air services between the EU and Bangladesh.

Agreement on certain aspects of air services

Decision on the signing

Statement (14778/1/15).

CUSTOMS UNION

Tariffs and quotas on certain products

The Council adopted a regulation amending regulation 1388/2013 opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the EU for certain agricultural and industrial products *(14504/15)*.

The regulation aims to ensure that adequate and uninterrupted supplies of products which are not produced in sufficient quantity in the EU can be imported at reduced or zero duty rates of the Common Customs Tariff duty for appropriate volumes, without disturbing the markets for such products.

The Council also adopted a regulation amending regulation 1387/2013 suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural, fishery and industrial products *(14602/1/15 REV 1)*.

EMPLOYMENT

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Finland and Ireland

The Council adopted the two following decisions mobilising € 3.1 million under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF), providing support for workers made redundant in Finland and Ireland:

– € 2.6 million is paid out of the EGF following the dismissal of 1 603 workers in 69 Finnish enterprises operating in the computer programming, consultancy and related activities sector

– an amount of € 442 293 is mobilised after 108 workers of two Irish enterprises operating in the repair and installation machinery and equipment sector were dismissed. The redundancies in both Finland and Ireland are the result of continued major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation.

The EGF helps workers find new jobs and develop new skills when they have lost their jobs as a result of changing global trade patterns, e.g. when a large company shuts down or a factory is moved outside the EU, or as a result of the global financial and economic crisis. The help of the EGF consists in co-financing measures such as job-search assistance, careers advice, tailor-made training and re-training, mentoring and promoting entrepreneurship. It also provides one-off, time-limited individual support, such as job-search allowances, mobility allowances and allowances for participating in lifelong learning and training activities.