

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7109/92 (Presse 106)

1587th Council meeting

- FISHERIES -

Luxembourg, 9 June 1992

President: Mr Eduardo DE AZEVEDO SOARES
Minister for Maritime Affairs of
the Portuguese Republic

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The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr André BOURGEOIS
Minister for Small and Medium Sized
Businesses and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Kent KIRK
Minister for Fisheries
Mr Thomas LAURITSEN
State Secretary, Ministry of
Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Walter KITTEL
State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Christos KOSKINAS
State Secretary for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

France:

Mr Charles JOSSELIN
State Secretary for the Sea

Ireland:

Mr Michael WOODS
Minister for the Marine

Italy:

Mr Rocco A. CANGELOSI
Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture
and Rural Development, with
responsibility for Cultural Affairs and
Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture, Nature
Conservation and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo DE AZEVEDO SOARES

Minister for Maritime Affairs

Mr João Marçal ALVES

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr David CURRY

State Secretary at the Ministry
of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

Sir Hector MONRO

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Scottish Office

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Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The Council took note of the Commission communications and reports on the Mediterranean, monitoring and enforcement, discards and quality policy following its 1991 report on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). With reference to its conclusions of 3 April 1992 (see Press Release 5469/92 Presse 47), the Council reached the following further conclusions:

Mediterranean

1. The Council considers the communication relating to fishery arrangements in the Mediterranean to be a sound basis for further Commission activities. It considers that it is appropriate in particular and in the first place to carry out detailed quantitative and qualitative research into the state of stocks and to harmonize the laws of the coastal Member States for the purpose of better conservation and management of stocks in accordance with the principles and objectives of the CFP.
2. Furthermore, initiatives must be taken to enable the other Mediterranean coastal States and a number of non-coastal third States whose fleets fish in that area to participate in the effort to conserve and manage resources.

Monitoring and enforcement

3. The Council recognizes the usefulness of the principle of integrated monitoring and enforcement which comprises conservation of stocks, the common organization of markets and structural policy.

4. Any sanctions required to ensure compliance with CFP rules must be adopted taking account of the principle of subsidiarity.
5. An effort to strengthen the equivalent effect of national monitoring and enforcement measures, and their effectiveness, is desirable ⁽¹⁾, while respecting the diversity of the systems established in the Member States.
6. A meeting of persons responsible for monitoring and inspection in the Member States will be convened as soon as possible, in order to strengthen co-operation between national authorities.
7. The Commission is invited to put forward as soon as possible proposals in the field of monitoring and enforcement, including, as appropriate, proposals to increase the effectiveness of the activities of Community inspectors.
8. New technologies should be used to increase the effectiveness of monitoring and enforcement activities where it is established that stocks and fishermen will benefit from them. Questions raised by the possible setting up of a satellite monitoring system will have to be studied in greater detail.

Discards

9. In view of the complexity and scope of the problem involved, the Commission is encouraged to work out an overall strategy and to submit its possible proposals within that framework.
10. As a matter of urgency, appropriate scientific research should be carried out particularly in the area of selective fishing, and the socio-economic impact

(1) The Council and the Commission will agree on the arrangements for implementing this point.

of any new restrictive conservation measures should be analysed. Possible action in the structural field and the means for improving the return on catches should also be examined.

11. This should not prejudice further pragmatic measures in the nearest possible future, for example in the form of pilot projects.

Quality policy

12. The Council welcomes the guidelines on structural action submitted by the Commission to help improve quality within the framework of existing Community regulations by attributing suitable importance to a number of areas such as training, research, consumer information and the modernization of vessels.
13. The Council, in view of a number of problems posed by the introduction of a quality system at Community level, invites the Commission to continue studying these problems in detail and to submit a report to it, if possible accompanied by a proposal enabling the Council to decide on the advisability of a quality system and if possible on the detailed arrangements for it."

COMMON MARKETING STANDARDS FOR PRESERVED TUNA AND BONITO

The Council adopted a Regulation laying down common standards for the marketing of preserved tuna and bonito in the Community.

The Regulation defines a trade designation for the products concerned in order in particular to ensure market transparency by means of a trade description based on well-defined species and thereby facilitate trade relations based on fair competition.

The new standards, applicable with certain temporary derogations from 1 January 1993, are moreover likely to improve the profitability of Community tuna production and its outlets.

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Council took note of the presentation by Mr MARIN (Vice-President of the Commission) of certain major points of the proposal for a Council Regulation on the common organization of the market in fishery products, in particular with regard to aquaculture products.

After a brief discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal.

FISHING ON THE HIGH SEAS

The Council took note of the submission by the Commission of a communication concerning fishing on the high seas aiming at elaborating a Community approach to the problems encountered by the Community fleet fishing in the waters of third countries and in international waters.

In this context, Mr MARIN informed the Council of the agreement reached within the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro on the convening of an intergovernmental conference

on the conservation of fishery resources with a view to promoting implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

OTHER MATTERS

- The Council heard the Commission's reply to requests concerning the reform of the common fisheries policy which were made by the Irish delegation at the Council meeting on 3 April 1992. The Council will state a position on this matter at a future meeting.
- The Council took note of the French delegation's comments on the situation of coastal multispecific fishery in the ICES IVc area, which the Commission undertook to study.
- The Council took note of the reply given to the French delegation by the Commission concerning safety on board large trawlers following the application of new technical measures concerning net geometry.

OTHER FISHERIES DECISIONS

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate fisheries agreements with the Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Environment

The Council adopted a Decision on the signing of the Convention on biological diversity on behalf of the Community. The text of the Convention was adopted on 22 May 1992 at the close of the 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

It will be remembered, in the context of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) underway in Rio de Janeiro, that the Council decided on 27 May 1992 that the Community would also sign the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Luxembourg, le 9 juin 1992

Note BIO (92) 149 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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CONSEIL PECHE
(X. Prats)

Le Conseil a eu un long débat sur base des communications et rapports de la Commission sur l'extension de la politique commune de pêche (PCP) en Méditerranée, le contrôle, les rejets de poissons en mer, et une politique de qualité, suite à son "Rapport 1991" de la Commission sur la réforme de la PCP.

Le Conseil a ainsi eu l'occasion de définir clairement le cadre dans lequel devront s'inscrire les propositions de la Commission sur la réforme de la PCP, et plus particulièrement sur les quatre thèmes précités. Sous référence à ses conclusions du Conseil du 3 avril 1992, le Conseil est parvenu aux conclusions ultérieures suivantes.

Méditerranée

Le Conseil considère la communication de la Commission concernant un régime de pêche en Méditerranée comme une bonne base pour la poursuite des travaux de la Commission. Il estime qu'il convient d'approfondir la recherche quantitative et qualitative sur l'état des stocks et de procéder à l'harmonisation des législations des Etats membres riverains pour pouvoir mieux conserver et gérer les stocks et pour établir des conditions de concurrence comparables pour les opérateurs de pêche.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil a confirmé la proposition de la Commission selon laquelle des initiatives devront être prises pour qu'à l'effort de conservation et de gestion des ressources participent également les autres Etats côtiers de la Méditerranée ainsi que certains Etats tiers non côtiers dont les flottes pêchent dans cette région.

Contrôle

Le Conseil reconnaît l'utilité du principe d'un contrôle intégré et d'une harmonisation tel que formulé par la Commission, englobant la conservation des ressources, l'organisation commune des marchés et la politique des ressources, l'organisation commune des marchés et la politique des structures.

Compte tenu du principe de subsidiarité, les sanctions nécessaires pour faire respecter les règles de la PCP seront prises en règle générale au niveau national.

Il a été convenu de créer un Comité composé de responsables des Etats membres en matière de contrôle et d'inspection et de la Commission, notamment pour renforcer la coopération entre les autorités nationales.

Les nouvelles technologies devront être utilisées pour renforcer l'efficacité des activités de contrôle dans la mesure où il est établi que les stocks et les pêcheurs en profiteront. La gestion de l'introduction éventuelle d'un système de surveillance par satellites devra être approfondie.

Rejets

Etant donné la complexité et l'ampleur du problème des rejets en mer, la Commission est invitée à formuler une stratégie d'ensemble et à présenter ses propositions dans ce cadre, le but prioritaire étant la protection des poissons juvéniles.

Il est urgent de développer la recherche, notamment dans le domaine des pêches sélectives, et d'analyser l'impact socio-économique d'éventuelles nouvelles mesures restrictives de conservation. Les actions possibles dans le domaine structurel, et les moyens pour une meilleure valorisation des captures, devront être étudiées. Cela ne doit pas préjuger la poursuite, dans les meilleurs délais, de démarches pragmatiques, par exemple sous forme d'actions pilotes.

Une politique de qualité

Le Conseil a accueilli favorablement les orientations soumises par la Commission en matière d'actions structurelles promouvant l'amélioration de la qualité des produits de la pêche, attribuant l'importance appropriée à certains domaines tels que la formation, la recherche, l'information des consommateurs et la modernisation des navires.

Le Conseil a invité la Commission à approfondir ces problèmes et à lui soumettre, le cas échéant, une proposition permettant au Conseil de se prononcer sur l'opportunité d'un système de qualité et sur les modalités d'un tel système.

A l'issue du Conseil, la Présidence portugaise a souligné l'intérêt de la CE à participer à la conférence intergouvernementale sur l'application de la Convention de 1977 sur le droit de la mer. La convocation de cette conférence a été décidée le 6 juin dernier dans le cadre de la Conférence de Rio.

Par ailleurs, le Vice-Président MARIN a indiqué que, compte tenu de la bonne atmosphère du Conseil, confirmée et consolidée tout au long de la Présidence portugaise, il devrait être possible pour la Communauté de conclure les principaux éléments de la réforme de la PCP avant la fin de l'année dans un climat constructif.

Les Douze ont accepté en tant que nécessité les principes de la réforme de la PCP. Si le secteur concerné, et en premier lieu les pêcheurs, comprennent le réalisme et l'opportunité de ces principes et mesures, la Communauté pourra résoudre les problèmes que la mise en place de la PCP en 1983 avait laissé en suspens.

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

