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THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

3050th Council meeting

### **Agriculture and Fisheries**

Brussels, 29 November 2010

President

**Mr Kris PEETERS**

Minister-President for the Flemish Region, responsible for  
Fisheries

**Ms Sabine Laruelle,**

Minister for Agriculture of Belgium

# **P R E S S**

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Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 8352 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026  
[press.office@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:press.office@consilium.europa.eu) <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

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## **Main results of the Council**

*Concerning Fisheries, the ministers reached a political agreement on **fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea stocks for 2011 and 2012**. They also held an exchange of views on the **annual consultations between the EU and Norway**.*

*Over lunch, ministers discussed improved fisheries and science partnerships.*

*As regards Agriculture, a qualified majority could not be reached either for or against a decision concerning the **non-inclusion of 1,3-dichlorpropene in Annex I to directive 91/414**.*

*Ministers held an exchange of views on a report on the **advisability and feasibility of presenting a legislative proposal enabling EFSA to receive fees**. The Council also held an exchange of views on a communication on the **future of CAP towards 2020**. Finally, ministers were briefed on the **Farm advisory system**.*

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<sup>1</sup> 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>).

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **Belgium:**

Ms Sabine LARUELLE

Mr Kris PEETERS

Mr Benoît LUTGEN

Minister for SMEs, the Self-Employed, Agriculture and Science Policy

Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Minister for Institutional Reform, Ports, Agriculture, Sea Fisheries and Rural Policy

Walloon Minister for Public Works, Agriculture, Rural Affairs, Nature, Forests and Heritage

### **Bulgaria:**

Mr Miroslaw NAYDENOV

Minister for Agriculture and Food

### **Czech Republic:**

Mr Juraj CHMIEL

Deputy Minister for Agriculture

### **Denmark:**

Mr Henrik HØEGH

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

### **Germany:**

Mr Robert KLOOS

State Secretary

### **Estonia:**

Mr Helir-Valdor SEEDER

Mr Gert ANTSU

Minister for Agriculture

Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Ireland:**

Mr Brendan SMITH

Mr Sean CONNICK

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Minister of State for Fisheries

### **Greece:**

Mr Konstantinos SKANDALIDIS

Mr Yannis KOUTSOUKOS

Minister for Agriculture

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Rural Development and Food

### **Spain:**

Ms Rosa AGUILAR RIVERO

Minister for the Environment and the Rural and Marine

### **France:**

Mr Bruno LE MAIRE

Mr Philippe LEGLISE-COSTA

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Italy**

Mr Giancarlo GALAN

Minister for Agriculture

### **Cyprus:**

Mr Demetris ELIADIS

The Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment

### **Latvia:**

Mr Janis DUKLAVS

Minister for Agriculture

### **Lithuania:**

Mr Kazys STARKEVICIUS

Minister for Agriculture

### **Luxembourg:**

Mr Romain SCHNEIDER

Ms Michèle EISENBARTH

Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development

Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Hungary:**

Mr Sándor FAZEKAS

Minister for Rural Development

### **Malta:**

Mr Patrick R. MIFSUD

Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Netherlands:**

Mr Henk BLEKER

Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

### **Austria:**

Mr Nikolaus BERLAKOVICH

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water management

**Poland:**

Mr Marek SAWICKI  
Mr Kazimierz PLOCKE

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development  
State Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Portugal:**

Mr António SERRANO  
Mr Luís VIEIRA

Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries  
State Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries

**Romania:**

Mr Valeriu TABĂRĂ

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Slovenia:**

Mr Dejan ŽIDAN

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food

**Slovakia:**

Mr Zsolt SIMON

Minister of Agriculture

**Finland:**

Ms Sirkka-Liisa ANTILA

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

**Sweden:**

Mr Eskil ERLANDSSON

Minister for Agriculture

**United Kingdom:**

Mr Jim PAICE  
Mr Richard BENYON

Minister of State for Agriculture and Food  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment  
and Fisheries

Mr Richard LOCHHEAD

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment,  
Scottish Government

**Commission:**

Mr Dacian CIOLOȘ  
Ms Maria DAMANAKI  
Mr John DALLI

Member  
Member  
Member

**ITEMS DEBATED****FISHERIES****Fishing opportunities for deep-sea stocks for 2011-2012**

Ministers have reached a political agreement on fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea stocks for 2011 and 2012 ([14628/10](#)) on the basis of a Presidency compromise, drawn up in agreement with the Commission, concerning a draft regulation fixing the 2011 and 2012 TACs and quotas for certain stocks of deep water fish<sup>1</sup> such as certain deepseasharks, the black scabbardfish (*Aphanopus carbo*), roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), alfonosinos (*Beryx spp.*) and forkbeards (*Phycis blennoides*). The Council will adopt this Regulation, following finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts, at one of its forthcoming meetings.

The main elements of the Presidency compromise endorsed by the Commission are as follows:

- as regards deep-sea sharks, in EU waters and international waters of areas V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and international water of area XII, a zero TAC was agreed for the 2011 and 2012. Furthermore for 2011 by-catches of up to 3% of 2009 quotas are permitted; however, for 2012 no more by-catches are permitted;
- as regards roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*):
  - current management areas are kept;
  - a two way flexibility of maximum 8% between zones Vb, VI, VII and zones VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV is kept.
  - TACs agreed for this species are set out in the table below,
- as regards red seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) a maximum of 8% in EU and international water of IX may be fished in EU and international waters of VI, VII and VIII.
- as regards forkbeards (*Phycis blennoides*) a two way flexibility of maximum 8% between areas V, VI, VII and VIII, IX, is permitted .

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<sup>1</sup> For 2009 and 2010, fishing opportunities for deep water species were fixed in Council Regulation (EC) No 1359/2008 (OJ L 352, 31.12.2008, p. 1).

A comparative table of TACs is given below;

Species (common name)	Species (Latin name)	ICES fishing zone	EC TACs 2010 (in tonnes)	Commission proposal re EC TACs for 2011 (in tonnes)	Council decision on EC TACs for 2011 (in tonnes)	Difference from EC TACs for 2010 (in %)	Commission proposal re EC TACs for 2012 (in tonnes)	Council decision on EC TACs for 2012 (in tonnes)	Difference from EC TACs for 2011 (in %)
<b>TACs and quotas for 2011 and 2012 for certain stocks of deep water fish: Council decision and initial Commission proposal</b>									
Deep-sea sharks (1)		V, VI, VII, VIII, IX (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	0			0	
Deep-sea sharks (1)		X (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	0			0	
Deep-sea sharks (1)		XII (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	0			0	
Black scabbardfish	<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	I, II, III and IV (EU waters and international waters)	12	12	12	0	9	12	
Black scabbardfish	<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	V, VI, VII and XII (EU waters and international waters)	2547	2165	2356	-7,5%	2000	2179	-7,5%
Black scabbardfish	<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	VIII, IX and X (EU waters and international waters)	3348	3348	3348	0	3348	3348	
Black scabbardfish	<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	COPACE 34.1.2 (EU waters and international waters) - Madère	4285	3643	4071	-5,0%	3643	3867	-5,0%
Alfonsinos	<i>Beryx spp</i>	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV (EU waters and international waters)	328	309	328	0,0%	309	328	0,0%
Roundnose grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	I, II et IV (EU waters and international waters)	17	15	15	-12,0%	13	13	-13,0%
Roundnose grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	III (EU waters and international waters) (2)	850	850	850	0,0%	850	850	0,0%
Roundnose grenadier (3)	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	Vb, VI, VII (EU waters and international waters)	3324		2925	-12,0%		2545	-13,0%
Roundnose grenadier (4)	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV (EU waters and international waters)	5197		4573	-12,0%		3979	-13,0%
Orange roughy	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	VI (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	0			0	

Orange roughy	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	VII (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>	
Orange roughy	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	I, II, III, IV, V, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>	
Blue ling	<i>Molva dypterygia</i>	II, IV (EU waters and international waters)	56	56	<b>56</b>	0%	56	<b>56</b>	0%
Blue ling	<i>Molva dypterygia</i>	III (EU waters and international waters)	11	10	<b>10</b>	-9%	8	<b>8</b>	-20%
Red seabream (5)	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	VI, VII and VIII (EU waters and international waters)	215	215	<b>215</b>	0%	215	<b>215</b>	0%
Red seabream (5)	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	IX (EU waters and international waters)	780	780	<b>780</b>	0%	780	<b>780</b>	0%
Red seabream (5) (6)	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	X (EU waters and international waters)	1136	1136	<b>1136</b>	0%	1136	<b>1136</b>	0%
Forkbeards	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>	I, II, III and IV (EU waters and international waters)	31	27	<b>31</b>	0%	23	<b>31</b>	0%
Forkbeards (7)	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>	V, VI and VII (EU waters and international waters)	2028	2028	<b>2028</b>	0%	2028	<b>2028</b>	0%
Forkbeards (8)	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>	VIII and IX (EU waters and international waters)	267	267	<b>267</b>	0%	267	<b>267</b>	0%
Forkbeards	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>	X and XII (EU waters and international waters)	54	46	<b>54</b>	0%	40	<b>54</b>	0%

(1) 2011: By catches of up to 3% of 2009 quotas are permitted No catches in 2012.

(2) No directed fishery for roundnose grenadier shall be conducted in ICES zone IIIa pending consultations between the EU and Norway.

(3) A maximum of 8% of each quota may be fished in EU and international waters of VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV.

(4) A maximum of 8% of each quota may be fished in EU and international waters of Vb, VI, VII.

(5) A minimum landing size of 35 cm (total length) shall be respected. However, 15 % of the fish landed may have a minimum size of at least 30cm (total length).

(6) A maximum of 8% of each quota may be fished in EU and international waters of VI, VII and VIII.

(7) A maximum of 8% of each quota may be fished in EU and international waters of VIII and IX.

(8) A maximum of 8% of each quota may be fished in EU and international waters of V, VI, and VII.

Deep-sea stocks are fish stocks caught in waters beyond the main fishing grounds on continental shelves. They are distributed on the continental slopes or associated with seamounts. These species are slow-growing and long-lived, which makes them particularly vulnerable to fishing activity. Scientific knowledge of the longevity and growth of these species, although still not enabling a full assessment of stock status to be carried out, is slowly improving making it possible to better target the measures proposed. In this respect, the Commission and the Council have agreed to improve the delivery of data necessary for scientific bodies to advance in the stock assessment of deep-sea species. In this regard, the Commission will launch studies in 2011 to develop more environmentally-friendly and more selective gear.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the resource, fishing for deep-sea species has been regulated by the European Union since 2003 in terms of total allowable catches (TACs) per species and area, and in terms of maximum fishing effort deployable in the North-East Atlantic. The fishing opportunities for deep-sea species are decided on a bi-annual basis, in line with the intervals at which scientific stock assessments are carried out.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) provides a thorough review of the biological status of deep sea stocks every two years. The latest advice was given in June 2010. This proposal for fixing fishing opportunities is based on the further review undertaken by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) in July 2010, following the work of ICES. Both reviews indicate that most deep-sea stocks are in a precarious situation, and that to assure their sustainability, fishing opportunities for those stocks should be reduced until the evolution of the stock sizes show a positive trend.

According to Article 43(3) of the Treaty, the Council, is required to adopt measures on a proposal from the Commission on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities for deep-sea stocks.

**EU/ Norway - annual consultations for 2011**

The Council held an exchange of views on annual consultations between the EU and Norway under their bilateral fisheries agreement.

Ministers were briefed about the results of the first round of consultations for 2011, held in Brussels from 16 to 19 November 2010. The second round is being held from 29 November to 3 December 2010 in Bergen (Norway).

The two main points in these consultations are the definition of the total allowable catches (TACs) for jointly managed stocks in the North Sea and the reciprocal exchanges of quotas. This agreement is contingent on a satisfactory overall bilateral agreement. The reciprocal exchange of quotas needs to be in overall balance across the agreement. The steep reduction in the TAC for blue whiting makes it difficult for the EU to find elements to trade in exchange for the higher quotas for Arctic cod proposed by Norway.

The EU and Norway signed a bilateral fisheries agreement in 1980. This covers joint stocks in the North Sea, some jointly managed, others not. Annual TACs are set jointly by the EU and Norway for the jointly managed joint stocks. There are joint long-term management plans for cod, haddock, herring and saithe and basic principles for a long-term management plan for plaice. A ten-year agreement with Norway on mackerel was agreed in January 2010 including mutual access in the North Sea.

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **Non-inclusion of 1,3-dichloropropene in Annex I of directive 91/414**

A proposal for a decision concerning the non-inclusion of 1,3-dichloropropene in annex I to directive 91/414 was presented to the ministers for adoption ([13450/10](#)) but the Council was unable to reach a qualified majority for or against this decision.

The Council having concluded its proceedings on this issue, the Commission is now entitled to finalise the decision-making procedure on this proposal.

At its meetings on 9 July 2010, the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health was unable to reach the qualified majority necessary to deliver an opinion in favour of or against the non-inclusion of 1,3-dichloropropene in annex I to directive 91/414. In the absence of an opinion, it was for the Council to act on the Commission proposal within a three month period.

Directive 91/414/EEC concerns the placing of plant protection products on the market. 1,3-dichloropropene is one of the substances covered by the 12-year programme for gradual examination of the active substances on the market. It had been decided not to include this substance in annex I (listing active substances authorised for incorporation in plant protection products) of directive 91/414 since 2007, in particular owing to concerns about the release into the environment of large amounts of known and unknown polychlorinated impurities, for which no information was available, as well as to the inconclusive risk assessment for the consumer, and the potential risk of groundwater contamination for animals and other non-target living organisms.

As regards this substance, a new dossier was resubmitted in 2008. It has been evaluated by the designated rapporteur Member State (Spain) and by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The conclusions on the risk assessment for this substance (30 September 2009) indicates that all the information provided could not eliminate all the specific concerns that originally led to its non-inclusion.

## **Advisability and feasibility of a legislative proposal enabling EFSA to receive fees**

The Council held an exchange of views on a Commission report on the advisability and feasibility of presenting a legislative proposal enabling the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to receive fees ([14198/10](#)).

Some delegations expressed the view that owing to the increase in its work EFSA could receive fees if the graduation does not disadvantage small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) applying for authorisations. The Parliament will now also adopt a position on this report.

In accordance with regulation 178/2002 "General Food Law", the Commission, after consulting the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Member States and the interested parties, published a report stating its position on the advisability and feasibility of presenting a proposal establishing fees for EFSA. The report takes into account the authority's experience in managing its workload, particularly in the light of the increasing workload and growing number of applications in various sectors such as health claims, feed additives, flavourings, etc.

One of the options explored in the report considers the introduction of graduated fees for applicants from sectors where the authorisation is issued to a specific holder and is not generic, such as genetically modified organisms (cultivation) and genetically modified food and feed, feed additives, claims, novel food or plant protection products. In this context, the issue of enhanced services for applicants would also have to be explored.

The impact assessment launched by the Commission will take into account the Member States', stakeholders' and EFSA's comments and the observations and remarks highlighted in the report. The assessment will also look at other EU policy areas as well as the practices of other EU regulatory agencies. It will have to identify the economic and budgetary impact of the various fees scenarios on enterprises (including SMEs). It is also important to assess the impact that a fee-system would have on EFSA's overall functioning and efficiency.

## **Future of CAP towards 2020**

The Commissioner Dacian Ciolos presented the Commission communication on the CAP towards 2010 to ministers. The Council then held an initial exchange of views([16348/10](#)).

Most of Member States generally welcomed the Communication and noted that it provided a good basis for discussion.

The Council mandated its preparatory bodies to conduct an in-depth examination of the communication and took note of the Belgian Presidency's intention to hold a first policy debate in the Council on 13 December. The future Hungarian Presidency confirmed its commitment to taking work forward with a view to preparing Council conclusions supported by all delegations for adoption in March 2011. The Commission is expected to present its legislative proposals on the CAP towards 2020 in July 2011.

The Council has been discussing different aspects of the reform over the last five successive Presidencies.

Most recently a discussion organised by the Presidency took place during the informal meeting of the agriculture ministers in La Hulpe on 21 September 2010. It confirmed the advantages of a two-pillar structure for the CAP, with sufficient flexibility in both pillars. Discussions had also shown that the reform should include in particular a better balance between income support and the rewarding of public goods provision, and should take better account of the diversity of European agricultures ([15339/10](#))

The European Parliament (EP) adopted an own initiative report on the post-2013 CAP, and its link with the Europe 2020 Strategy. During the conference on the public debate summarising results of a large public consultation in July 2010, a majority of views concurred that the future CAP should remain a strong common policy structured around its two pillars.

The communication establishes that the CAP is in need of reform:

- so as to better address the challenges of food security; climate change and sustainable management of natural resources, looking after the countryside and keeping the rural economy alive.
- to help the farming sector become more competitive and to deal with the economic crisis and increasingly unstable farm-gate prices.
- to make the policy fairer, greener, more efficient, more effective and more understandable.

The main elements of the CAP that the communication proposes to change are the following:

- Direct payments to farmers will better reflect the public service that farmers provide, help support farming even in the most disadvantaged areas and be more fairly distributed, and aimed at active farmers.
- Market management tools will be simplified.
- Rural development policy will focus on increasing competitiveness and promoting innovation.
- New tools will be introduced to help farmers cope with price and income volatility.

On the basis of the impact assessments currently under way the Commission will further develop the policy orientations set out in the communication, with a view to preparing the legal proposals expected for July 2011. The new legislation resulting from the CAP reform should come into effect by 2014.

## Farm advisory system

Ministers were briefed by Commissioner Ciolos on the Commission's recent report on the Farm advisory system (FAS) ([16611/10](#)).

The Council mandated its preparatory bodies to examine the report. On this basis, the Belgian Presidency announced its intention to hold a discussion in the SCA for 6 December.

Member States have the obligation to establish a system for advising farmers on land and farm management. The FAS is a major component of the 2003 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and was introduced in 2007. The FAS was initiated in the framework of the cross compliance system, under which CAP support is paid in full only if farmers meet certain requirements relating to the environment, food safety, animal health and animal welfare. The FAS is indeed primarily a tool to help farmers fulfil those requirements and thus avoid financial penalties under cross compliance.

Regulation No 73/2009 provides that the Commission must send the Council a report on the application of the FAS — accompanied, if necessary, by appropriate proposals. This report establishes that the start-up phase has required considerable effort, especially from Member States where few advisory services were available in the past. For other Member States, setting up a FAS has been more a question of coordinating existing services.

Moreover, with new challenges emerging, expectations of advisory services have risen since 2003. The FAS should therefore pro-actively develop and encompass issues that go beyond legal requirements under cross compliance. The Commission therefore makes recommendations to the Member States such as:

- Target advice better;
- Emphasise the role of the FAS advisor as a 'general practitioner' directing farmers, if necessary, to specialist advisors;
- Promote the FAS via specific measures and ensure that small farms are reached too;
- Improve the management of the FAS, and ensure that knowledge is shared between actors in the field of cross compliance.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **FISHERIES**

#### **Long-term recovery plans in the fisheries sector**

The Council was briefed on Commission's view as to the adoption of long-term management plans in the fisheries sector following the new institutional framework after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Multi-annual management plans have become an essential tool for managing fish stocks and for enabling the fishing industry to carry out better forward planning of its activities.

Trilateral meetings enabling the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament to discuss the procedural issues relating to these plans were proposed by the Commission..

### **AGRICULTURE**

#### **International conference on animal welfare education**

Ministers were briefed by the Presidency on the conclusions of the conference on animal welfare education held in Brussels on 1-2 October 2010 ([16849/10](#)). The conference explored the science and values guiding animal welfare education, methodologies for teaching animal welfare, and the role of the media in animal welfare education. Knowledge of animal husbandry is also an important part of the process.

#### **Conference on the review of the European plant health regime**

The Presidency briefed the Council on a conference concerning the review of the Common Plant Health Regime which took place in Brussels on 28 September 2010 ([16857/10](#)). The outcome of the evaluation of the Community Plant Health Regime and the recommendations made in the evaluation report for the new plant health law were presented. Following the conclusions of this conference, the Commission is expected to prepare an impact assessment of the improvements of this regime which it would like to propose.

## **2011 budget**

Ministers were briefed by the Commission on the 2011 budget procedure and CAP expenditure (16932/10). If the budget is not adopted by 1 January 2011, the system of "provisional twelfths" will apply. This would have several consequences for CAP expenditure, and in particular delays in the reimbursement of expenditure declared by Member States to the Commission such as direct payments.

## **Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change**

The Netherlands delegation briefed the ministers on the conclusions of the Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change which took place in the Hague from 30 October to 5 November 2010 (16777/10). This conference aimed to draw up a roadmap, with concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies, and measures with the transition to lower-carbon-emitting, climate-resilient growth. 80 countries participated in the conference. A conference on the same subject will be held in two years' time in Vietnam to assess the implementation of the roadmap.

## **Aim and schedule of the French presidency of the G20 in the field of agriculture**

The French delegation briefed the Council about its intention to place the issue of the volatility of agricultural markets on the agenda for its G20 Presidency (16955/10). This schedule is in line with the Pittsburgh G20 recommendations in 2009 for tackling the excessive volatility in the price of commodities, including agricultural commodities. The conclusions of the G20 in November 2010 in Seoul identified food security as one of the major development challenges. A meeting of the G20 agriculture ministers is scheduled in Paris for 2011.

During the French Presidency of the G20, an emphasis would be put on four main topics: i) transparency of the markets; ii) ethical market behaviour; iii) international coordination of crisis management; iv) instruments to cover risks-price volatility.

The French delegation expressed its hope that the EU would be able to deliver a coordinated message on these themes and called upon the Commission and Member States to become closely associated in this work. The Hungarian delegation and the Commission expressed their support to the French proposals to the G20 Presidency in the field of agriculture, underlining the importance of ensuring a coordinated approach.

## **Private labelling**

The Italian delegation briefed the ministers on the current draft text on food labelling which could make it difficult for food producers to add a specific company marking on products displayed in supermarkets.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****AGRICULTURE****TSE Road Map 2 - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in document [13889/10 ADD 1 REV 1](#).

**Welfare of dogs and cats**

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in document [15620/10 ADD 1 REV 2](#).

**EU-Switzerland veterinary agreement - Amendment**

The Council adopted a decision on the EU position on Decision No 1/2010 of the Joint Veterinary Committee set up by the agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products regarding the amendment of annex 11 to the agreement ([15674/10](#)).

This decision establishes the EU position for amending the Annex 11 of this "veterinary agreement" between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation by extending until 31 December 2014 the transitional period during which the Swiss authorities may derogate from *Trichinella* examination of pig meat and carcasses in low-capacity slaughter establishments. A number of technical updates to the agreement are also introduced.

**FISHERIES****Partnership agreement - EU and Comoros**

The Council adopted a decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and on the provisional application of the protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Partnership Agreement in the fisheries sector between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros ([15571/10](#)).

The partnership agreement in the fisheries sector between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros concluded in 2006 is to expire on 31 December 2010. In order for EU vessels to pursue fishing activities in this region, the new protocol should be signed and applied provisionally, pending the completion of the procedures for its conclusion.

## **Partnership agreement between EU and Comoros - Allocation of fishing opportunities**

The Council adopted a regulation concerning the allocation of the fishing opportunities under the partnership agreement in the fisheries sector between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros ([15573/10](#)).

Following the signing of the provisional application of the protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the partnership agreement in the fisheries sector between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros, this decision provides for the allocation of fishing opportunities between Member States.

## **Fishing opportunities 2011 - Baltic Sea**

The Council adopted a regulation fixing for 2011 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea ([15986/10](#)). On 26 October the Council had reached a unanimous political agreement on the proposal.

The regulation lays down, for 2011, the total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas, representing the maximum quantities of fish from specific stocks (cod, herring, plaice, Atlantic salmon and sprat) that can be caught in the Baltic Sea, as well as the fishing effort limits for Baltic cod stocks. The proposed measures were established taking into account the available scientific advice. For cod, catch limits and fishing effort limits are established in accordance with the multi-annual plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea. These fisheries will be opened on 1 January 2011.

## **North-East Atlantic fisheries - Control and enforcement**

The Council adopted a regulation laying down a Scheme of control and enforcement applicable in the area covered by the Convention on future multilateral cooperation in the North-East Atlantic fisheries ([48/2/10 REV 2](#)). The Swedish delegation abstained.

The convention which entered into force in 1982 provides an appropriate framework for multilateral cooperation on the rational conservation and management of fishery resources in the North-East Atlantic area. This regulation establishes a scheme of control and enforcement applicable to fishing vessels operating in the waters of the Convention Area.

## **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **Authentication and handling of euro coins**

The Council adopted a regulation aimed at ensuring uniform protection of euro coins throughout the euro area ([38/10](#)). This follows a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament.

The new regulation establishes in a legally binding form a common method for verifying that euro coins are authentic and fit for circulation. It complements regulation 1338/2001 which requires credit institutions and other payment service providers to ensure that euro notes and coins which they have received and which they intend to put back into circulation are checked for authenticity and that counterfeits are detected. Counterfeiting of euro coins is considered as a significant threat, particularly for the highest coin denominations.

For more information see press release [16968/10](#).

### **Derogation from VAT directive for Italy\***

The Council adopted a decision authorising Italy to apply measures derogating from the directive on value added tax (VAT) ([15941/10](#) + [16107/10 ADD 1](#)). This authorisation aims to allow Italy to continue to restrict the right to deduct VAT on expenditure related to certain motorised vehicles when the vehicle is not used exclusively for business purposes.

## **HEALTH**

### **EU rules on pharmacovigilance**

The Council adopted a regulation and a directive aimed at strengthening the EU system for the safety monitoring of medicinal products for human use ("pharmacovigilance"), hereby better protecting public health ([46/10](#) + [16475/10 ADD 1](#) + [47/10](#) + [16477/10 ADD 1](#)). This follows a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament.

The EU pharmacovigilance system seeks to detect, assess and prevent adverse effects of medicinal products placed on the market in the European Union. It also ensures that any product which presents an unacceptable level of risk can be rapidly withdrawn from the market.

For more details see press release [17054/10](#).

**TRADE POLICY****Anti-dumping - High tenacity yarn of polyesters from Asian countries**

The Council adopted a regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of high tenacity yarn of polyesters originating in China and terminating the proceeding concerning imports of this product originating in the Republic of Korea and Taiwan ([15912/10](#)).

**EMPLOYMENT POLICY****Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund - Germany and Slovenia**

The Council adopted two decisions mobilising a total amount of EUR 10.6 million under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF), providing support for workers made redundant in Germany and Slovenia. An amount of EUR 8.31 million is allocated for dismissed workers in the German enterprise Heidelberger Druckmaschinen, arising from a decline in demand for printing machinery as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis. A further EUR 2.25 million will be spent for dismissed workers in the Slovenian enterprise Mura European Fashion Design because of a decline in demand in the textile manufacturing sector in connection with the crisis. The support measures must be co-financed by the two member states and include, inter alia, training, professional orientation, job-search and assistance for entrepreneurship.

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