



Brussels, 19 May 2009

**Background Note<sup>1</sup>**  
**AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COUNCIL**  
**Brussels, 25 May 2009**

*The Council sessions will start, under the chair of Mr Jakub ŠEBESTA, Czech Minister for Agriculture, on Monday 25 May at 14.30.*

*The Council will have an exchange of views based on the Commission's Green Paper on the **reform** of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).*

*The Council will hold a policy debate on the **simplification** of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) “a simplified CAP for Europe – a progress for all” with a view to adopting conclusions on that matter.*

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*The Presidency will hold a press conference probably at the close of the Council meeting [ca. 19.00].*

*Public events can be followed via video transmission:*  
<http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the sole responsibility of the Press Service.

## **FISHERIES**

### **Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**

The Council will have an exchange of views on the future reform of the Common Fisheries Policy on the basis of the Commission's Green Paper ([8977/09](#)).

In their preliminary reaction<sup>1</sup>, Member States agreed on the need for a substantial reform with the view to improving and simplifying the management and decision-making process. Among various aspects of CFP particular emphasis was put on such issues as overcapacity, discards, quota management, the support for coastal fisheries and the revision of funding rules. In addition, Member States stressed the importance of close consultations with stakeholders in order to ensure that the latter accept the outcome of the reform.

Ministers will have the opportunity to express their priorities for the future CFP and to sort out which additional elements to those mentioned in the Green Paper should be tackled in the discussions on the CFP reform.

Despite considerable improvements introduced by the radical reform of 2002<sup>2</sup>, such as long-term management of fish stocks, increased stakeholder involvement, new management tools and a more selective use of public funds, the objective to achieve sustainable fisheries has not been met overall.

The Green Paper identifies five structural failings which have led to the current unsatisfactory situation: **overcapacity, imprecise objectives, short-term decision-making, lack of responsibility of the industry and overall lack of compliance.**

Aiming to launch the debate on potential options for a radical change of the policy, the Green Paper presents suggestions on how to overcome the above-mentioned main problems and puts forward further new ideas addressing such issues as differentiated management regimes for industrial and small-scale coastal fleets, discarding, relative stability, individual transferable quotas, increased market orientation, integration of the CFP in the broader maritime policy context, R&D, public funding, external dimension of the CFP and aquaculture. All interested parties are invited to comment on the questions set out in the Green Paper by 31 December 2009.

In preparation of the upcoming reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) the Commission adopted on 21 April 2009 a Green Paper to initiate a broad consultation of all stakeholders. The results of this consultation process will be published next year and will be followed by a legislative proposal to the Council and the European Parliament.

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<sup>1</sup> See Council of 23 & 24 April press release [8713/09](#).

<sup>2</sup> The deadline for the next reform, in accordance with the Basic Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002, is set for 2012.

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **Simplification of the Common agricultural policy**

The Council will draw up conclusions on a Communication from the Commission "A simplified CAP for Europe - a success for all" ([7771/09](#)).

On 24 April, the Council had a policy debate on the Communication. Based on it the Council preparatory bodies have prepared draft conclusions to be adopted by the Council.

Among several statements regarding the need to complete the simplification process, the Council will invite the Commission to reflect on the suggestions made in Council<sup>1</sup> with a view to Council next returning to this issue under the future Swedish Presidency in November 2009.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Statement on the next steps in phasing out of discards**

*- Presentation by the Commission*

The Commission will inform the Council on the above matter. On 11-12 June 2007, the Council adopted conclusions on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: A policy to reduce unwanted by-catches and eliminate discards in European fisheries ([11063/07](#)).

### **(b) Compensation of damages to livestock caused by large carnivores**

*- Request from the Finnish delegation ([10014/09](#))*

### **(c) Food prices**

*- Request from the Polish delegation*

### **(d) Situation on the pig meat market**

*- Request from the French delegation*

### **(e) Situation on the dairy market**

*- Request from the French delegation*

### **(f) UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), New-York, 4-15 May**

*- Information from the Presidency*

The 17th meeting of UN CSD has identified global objectives for rural development, objectives relating to issues of land ownership, the fight against drought and desertification and to development in Africa; the negotiations resulted in a strategy of sustainable agriculture until 2017.

*Further information :*

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/csd>

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<sup>1</sup> See in particular document [9103/09](#).