



Brussels, 15 April 2010

## **Background note<sup>1</sup>**

### **AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COUNCIL**

**Luxembourg, 19 April 2010**

*The Council meeting will take place in Luxembourg on Monday 19 April, starting at 10.30, under the chair of Ms **Elena ESPINOSA**, minister of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain.*

*The Council will hold an exchange of views on the reform of the **common fisheries policy** on the basis of a report by the Commission summing up the contributions of a public consultation launched in April 2009.*

*At the working lunch, EU ministers will deal with the reform of the common market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products.*

*A press conference will take place after the meeting (+/-13h00).*

*Public events can be followed via videostreaming:*

<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**

### **Reform of the common fisheries policy**

The Council will hold an exchange of views on the future reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP) on the basis of a report elaborated by the Commission summarising the contributions of a public consultation.

The results of the consultation process on the reform will be followed by legislative proposals to be addressed to the Council and the European Parliament early in 2011.

In April 2009, the Commission issued a Green Paper on the CFP ([8977/09](#)) and launched a broad consultation addressed to member states and stakeholders on potential options for the upcoming reform.

On 25 May 2009, at a preliminary exchange of views, ministers identified a number of elements to be taken into account in subsequent discussions on the CFP reform, including:

- better adaptation of fleet capacity to fish stocks availability,
- discards reduction through development of more selective fishing gear,
- devolution of decision-making to regional/national levels,
- responsible behaviour all along the fishery chain,
- improved efficiency of controls,
- differentiated approach for industrial and coastal / small-scale fleets,
- revision of funding rules, and
- promotion of aquaculture development.

In addition, member states stressed the importance of maintaining close consultations with stakeholders.

Some of these subjects will be further analysed at the next informal meeting of Fisheries ministers to take place in Vigo, Spain, on 4 and 5 May.

The Commission Green Paper analyses the outcome of the last CFP reform in 2002 and identifies structural failings. Moreover, it addresses fundamental questions such as: differentiated management regimes for industrial and small-scale coastal fleets, management tools, relative stability, trade and market, integration of the CFP in a broader maritime policy context, knowledge base of the policy, structural policy and public funding, the external dimension of the CFP and aquaculture.

During 2010, the Commission will continue the consultation process by discussing the main reform ideas with stakeholders and member states. This consultation process will have a second in depth analysis in the Council meeting that will take place on 28 and 29 of June.

The CFP was established in 1983 and has since then been reviewed every ten years. Last revision was in 2002 and the next is scheduled for 2012 at the latest.

*See also:* <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/>

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