



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 305

Council agrees on a EU mandate for negotiating the management on bluefin tuna at the annual ICCAT meeting

The Council adopted today¹ an EU negotiating mandate for the discussions on bluefin tuna management at the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) taking place in Paris from 17 to 27 November 2010.

The Council unanimously agreed on a text indicating that for 2010, the bluefin tuna Total Allowable Catches (TACs) should stay in line with the ICCAT scientific advice in order to ensure the long term recovery of the bluefin tuna stock. The Council agreed on the compromise text presented by the Presidency because the original Commission proposal for a reduction of the TACs on bluefin tuna did not get the necessary support of the Council.

On 10 November 2010 the Commission submitted to the Council a draft mandate for the ICCAT meeting proposing a reduction of the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) on bluefin tuna. The proposal was based on an ICCAT scientific advice. This advice assessing the long-term bluefin tuna recovery plan which has the objective of recovery of the stock by 2022 suggests that this stock is recovering in line with the plan with a probability of at least 60%.

¹ The mandate was adopted today, without discussion, at a meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council.

P R E S S

The Commission submitted its proposal for a decision amending decision of 11 November 2008 for the establishment of the Community position in ICCAT (14863/08). This proposal renews the position for the 2010 meeting, with regards to part concerning bluefin tuna (paragraph 2.2 of the annex originally limited to 2008 and 2009). This paragraph defines Community action to limit fleet overcapacity and implement reductions in the fishing seasons, the limitation of derogations and the control measures to be undertaken.

The ICCAT is responsible for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The management competences of ICCAT thus cover, among others, such species as bluefin tuna, swordfish and tropical tunas. The organisation was established in 1969 and has 42 Contracting Parties, including the EU, the United Kingdom and France (the latter two on behalf of their overseas territories). The annual meeting of ICCAT is closely linked to the management of bluefin tuna stocks, which has significant financial implications for the European tuna fishing fleets and tuna fattening farms. This annual meeting follows a meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on March 2010 where it was proposed by Monaco, with the support of the EU, that the level of protection of bluefin tuna be increased.
