

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



16912/10

PROVISIONAL VERSION

PRESSE 320 PR CO 40

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

PRESS

Main results of the Council

Concerning Fisheries, the ministers reached a unanimous 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 on improved fisheries and science partnerships.

As regards Agriculture, no qualified majority could be reached 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. Furthermore, the Council held an exchange of views on a communication on the future of CAP after 2013. Finally ministers were briefed on the Farm advisory system.

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PARTICIPANTS

Belgium:

Ms Sabine LARUELLE Minister for SMEs, the Self-Employed, Agriculture and

Science Policy

Mr Kris PEETERS Minister-President of the Flemish Government and

Minister for Institutional Reform, Ports, Agriculture, Sea

Fisheries and Rural Policy

Mr Benoît LUTGEN 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 Minister for Agriculture

Mr. Gert ANTSU Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Sean CONNICK Minister of State for Fisheries

Greece:

Ms Konstantinos SKANDALIDIS Minister for Agriculture

Mr Yannis KOUTSOUKOS 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 Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr Philippe LEGLICE-COSTA Deputy Permanent Representative

Italy

Mr Giancarlo GALAN Minister for Agriculture

Cyprus:

Latvia:

Mr Demetris ELIADES

The Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the

Environment

Mr Janis DUKLAVS Minister for Agriculture

Lithuania:

Mr Kazys STARKEVICIUS Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Romain SCHNEIDER Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural

Development

Ms Michèle EISENBARTH 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 Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development
Mr Kazimierz PLOCKE State Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development

Portugal:

Mr António SERRANO Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries

Mr Luís VIEIRA State Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries

Romania:

Mr Valeriu TABÅRÅ

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 ANTTILA Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Sweden:

Mr Eskil ERLANDSSON Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom: Mr Jim PAICE

Mr Jim PAICE Minister of State for Agriculture and Food

Mr Richard BENYON Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment

and Fisheries

Mr Richard LOCHHEAD Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment,

Scottish Governmen

Commission:

Mr Dacian CIOLOŞMemberMs Maria DAMANAKIMemberMr John DALLIMember

ITEMS DEBATED

FISHERIES

Fishing opportunities for deep-sea stocks for 2011-2012

Ministers have reached a unanimous political agreement on fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea stocks for 2011 and 2012 (<u>14628/10</u>) 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 fish¹ such as certain deep water sharks, the black scabbardfish (*Aphanopus carbo*), roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), alfonsinos (*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 Community waters and waters not under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of third countries of zones V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X et XII, for 2011 by-catches of up to 3% of 2009 quotas are permitted; however, for 2012 no catches are permitted;
- as regards roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*) in Community waters and waters not under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of third countries:
 - in zone III, no directed fishery shall be conducted in ICES zone IIIa pending consultations between the EU and Norway;
 - in zones Vb, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV, a flexibility of 8% in each quota may be fished in other areas (see Table).

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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).

- as regards red seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in Community waters and waters not under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of third countries of zones VI, VII, VIII, IX and X, 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). Furthermore, in zone IX, A maximum of 8% of each quota may be fished in EU and international waters of VI, VII and VIII.
- As regards forkbeards (*Phycis blennoides*) in Community waters and waters not under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of third countries of zones V, VI, VII, VIII and IX, a flexibility of 8% in each quota may be fished in other areas (see Table).

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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 %)
	T.	ACs and quotas for 2007 and 2008for certain	stocks of deep wa	ter fish: Council o	decision and initial	Commission pro	posal		
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	Aphanopus carbo	I, II, III and IV (EU waters and international waters)	12	12	12	0	9	12	
Black scabbardfish	Aphanopus carbo	V, VI, VII and XII (EU waters and international waters)	2547	2165	2356	-7,5%	2000	2179	-7,5%
Black scabbardfish	Aphanopus carbo	VIII, IX and X (EU waters and international waters)	3348	3348	3348	0	3348	3348	
Black scabbardfish	Aphanopus carbo	COPACE 34.1.2 (EU waters and international waters) - Madère	4285	3643	4071	-5,0%	3643	3867	-5,0%
Alfonsinos	Beryx spp	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	Coryphaenoides rupestris	I, II et IV (EU waters and international waters)	17	15	15	-13,0%	13	13	-12,0%
Roundnose grenadier	Coryphaenoides rupestris	III (EU waters and international waters) (2)	850	850	850	0,0%	850	850	0,0%
Roundnose grenadier (3)	Coryphaenoides rupestris	Vb, VI, VII (EU waters and international waters)	3324		2892	-13,0%		2545	-12,0%
Roundnose grenadier (4)	Coryphaenoides rupestris	VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV (EU waters and international waters)	5197		4521	-13,0%		3979	-12,0%
Orange roughy	Hoplostethus atlanticus	VI (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	0			0	

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Orange roughy	Hoplostethus atlanticus	VII (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	0			0	
Orange roughy	Hoplostethus atlanticus	I, II, III, IV, V, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV (EU waters and international waters)	0	0	0			0	
Blue ling	Molva dypterygia	II, IV (EU waters and international waters)	56	56	56	0%	56	56	0%
Blue ling	Molva dypterygia	III (EU waters and international waters)	11	10	11	0%	8	11	0%
Red seabream (5)	Pagellus bogaraveo	VI, VII and VIII (EU waters and international waters)	215	215	215	0%	215	215	0%
Red seabream (5)	Pagellus bogaraveo	IX (EU waters and international waters)	780	780	780	0%	780	780	0%
Red seabream (5) (6)	Pagellus bogaraveo	X (EU waters and international waters)	1136	1136	1136	0%	1136	1136	0%
Forkbeards	Phycis blennoides	I, II, III and IV (EU waters and international waters)	31	27	31	0%	23	31	0%
Forkbeards (7)	Phycis blennoides	V, VI and VII (EU waters and international waters)	2028	2028	2028	0%	2028	2028	0%
Forkbeards (8)	Phycis blennoides	VIII and IX (EU waters and international waters)	267	267	267	0%	267	267	0%
Forkbeards	Phycis blennoides	X and XII (EU waters and international waters)	54	46	54	0%	40	54	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 of 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 on the longevity and growth of these species, although still partial in the assessment of the stock status, is slowly improving allowing to better target the measures proposed.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the ressource, fishing for deep-sea species is 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 according to the rhythm of scientific stock assessments.

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 advices indicates that most deep-sea stocks are in a precarious situation, and that fishing opportunities for those stocks, in order to assure their sustainability, should be reduced until the evolution of the stock sizes show a positive trend.

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

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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 organised in Brussels from 16 to 19 November 2010. The second round begins from today 29 November to 3 December 2010 in Bergen (Norway).

The two main points in these consultations are the definition of the total allowed catches (TACs) for stocks in the North Sea jointly managed 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 strong reduction of the TAC for blue whiting makes it difficult for the EU to find elements to trade in exchange of higher quotas on Arctic cod proposed by Norway.

The EC 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 EC 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-dichlorpropene in annex I to directive 91/414 was presented to the ministers for adoption (<u>13450/10</u>) but no qualified majority could be reached by the Council 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 gather the qualified majority necessary to deliver an opinion in favour or against the non-inclusion of 1,3-dichloropropene in annex I to directive 91/414. In the absence of an opinion it was to 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 was decided not to include this substance in the Annex I (listing active substances authorised for incorporation in plant protection products) of directive 91/414 since 2007 in particular due to concerns about the release in the environment of large amounts of known and unknown polychlorinated impurities, for which no information were available, as well as to the inconclusive risk assessment for the consumer, to the potential risk of groundwater contamination for animals and other non target living organisms.

As regards this substance, a new dossier has been 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 information provided could not eliminate all the specific concerns that led to the first 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 due the increase of its work EFSA could receive fees if the graduation does not put at a disadvantage small and medium sized enterprises applying for authorisations. The Parliament will now take also position on this report.

In accordance with regulation 178/2002 "General Food Law", the Commission published, after consulting the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Member States and the interested parties 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 increasing workload and evolving 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 the 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 results of 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 practices of other EU regulatory agencies. It will have to identify the economic and budgetary impact of the various scenarios of fees 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 after 2013

The Council held an initial exchange of views on a Commission communication on the future of CAP after 2013 (16348/10).

Ministers heard the presentation of the Communication by Commissioner Ciolos and took note of the first reactions from delegations. Most of the Member States noted that this first orientation constitutes a good basis for preparing the discussion on the legislative package.

The Council mandated its preparatory bodies to conduct an in-depth examination of the communication The Belgian Presidency announced it has scheduled a first general debate on this communication for the Council session in December, before handing the file over to the future Hungarian Presidency. The Commission is expected to present its legislative proposals on the CAP post-2013 in July 2011.

The Council discussed during four successive Presidencies different aspects of the reform. 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.

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 interest 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 into account the diversity of European agricultures (15339/10)

The communication establishes that the CAP needs reforming:

- 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 from 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.

The impact assessment currently prepared by the Commission will allow more concrete and elaborated options. The legal proposals will be presented in 2011 for new rules to come into effect in 2014.

Farm advisory system

Ministers were briefed by the Commission on the Farm advisory system (FAS) (16611/10).

The Council heard a presentation by Commissioner Ciolos on the report concerning the application of the FAS. As CAP will take into account climate changes or innovation, FAS will be in line with these future challenges. The Council mandated its preparatory instances to examine the contents of the report, which is very relevant with a view to the future legislative proposals on the CAP post-2013. The Belgian Presidency has scheduled a discussion on the report 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 by 2007. FAS was initiated in the framework of 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 from 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 better the advice;
- 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 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 stock and for allowing the fishing industry a better forward planning of their activities.

Trilateral meetings allowing the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament to discuss the procedural issues for these plans are foreseen.

AGRICULTURE

International conference on animal welfare education

Ministers were briefed by the Presidency about the conclusions of the conference on animal welfare education held in Brussels on 1-2 October 2010 (<u>16849/10</u>). 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. The knowledge of animal farming is also an important part of the process.

Conference on the review of the European plant health regime

The Presidency briefed the Council about 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 it would like to propose.

2011 budget

Ministers were briefed by the Commission on the 2011 budget procedure and CAP expenditure (16932/10). In case 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 advance 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 develop a roadmap, with concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies, and measures with the transition to lower carbonemitting, climate resilient growth. 80 countries participated to this conference. A conference on the same subject will be organised in two years 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 G20 recommendations in 2009 for tackling the excessive volatility in the price of commodities, including agricultural commodities. The conclusions of G20 in November 2010 identified food security as one of the major development challenges. A meeting of the G20 agriculture ministers is scheduled in 2011.

Private labelling

The Italian delegation briefed the ministers about the current draft project on food labelling which could hamper 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 <u>13889/10 ADD 1 REV 1</u>.

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 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 (<u>15986/10</u>). 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 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 open on 1 January 2011.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Authentication and handling of euro coins

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

The new regulation sets up 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.

More more information see press release <u>16968/10</u>.

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) ($\underline{15941/10} + \underline{16107/10} \,\underline{ADD} \,\underline{I}$). This authorisation aims to allow Italy to continue restricting the right of deduction of VAT on expenditure related to certain motorised vehicles when the vehicle is not used exclusively for business purposes.

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 (47/10). The Swedish delegation abstained.

The convention which entered into force in 1982 provides for 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.

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 ("pharmacoviligance"), hereby better protecting public health ($\frac{46/10}{10} + \frac{16475/10}{100} + \frac{16475/10}{100} + \frac{16477/10}{100} + \frac{16477/10}{1$

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.

Fore more details see press release <u>17054/10</u>.

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.