



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 March 2011

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**PECHE 80
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NOTE

from: Czech delegation

to: Council

Subject: Joint Declaration of Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Luxembourg and Slovakia on the Future role of the Freshwater Aquaculture and Inland Fishery within the CFP Reform

- Information from the Czech delegation supported by the Austrian, Hungarian, Luxembourg and Slovak delegation
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Delegations will find annexed the above declaration to be dealt with under "Any Other Business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14 April 2011.

Joint Declaration of Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Luxembourg and Slovakia on the Future role of the Freshwater Aquaculture and Inland Fishery within the CFP Reform

FOLLOWING the

- workshops of experts from the landlocked countries held in Budapest and Szarvas in October 2010;
- the working meetings of the attaches of landlocked countries and EC representatives held in November and December 2010;
- bilateral discussions between the representatives of landlocked countries held throughout 2010;

CONSIDERING the fact that, for the European consumer, aquaculture is in a position to ensure high quality and healthy products from fish and other aquatic animals produced in a sustainable manner and with a high potential for providing public goods and environmental values;

BEING AWARE that the production potential of freshwater aquaculture is by no means fully used in the EU and can be further developed for the benefit of sustainable growth;

THE LANDLOCKED countries share the following common priorities for the future Common Fisheries Policy and request:

- increased share of the freshwater aquaculture in the new financial framework compared to the present EFF;
- greater consideration to the needs of landlocked countries in further developing the freshwater aquaculture;
- improved promotion of the freshwater aquaculture products as an alternative to endangered marine fisheries resources and at the same time as the environmentally friendly production;

- improved support of applied research including testing of new products and new technologies (including organic aquaculture and new IT solutions), maintaining a high level of fishing education;
 - focus on the needs of especially small aquaculture and fishery enterprises;
 - special emphasis on simplification and harmonisation of the administrative and financial measures;
 - improved support for non-production functions of ponds, including the dredging of ponds, biodiversity conservation, flood-protection measures, diversification and tourism;
 - European solution of the problem with invasive species, such as the cormorant;
 - support fish farmers to find common solutions on veterinary and disease control issues;
 - need for a clear distinction between the marine and inland fishery measures. Beside of providing fresh fish for local markets, proper management of inland fishery resources can support rural development and improve biodiversity of freshwaters.
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