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ANNEXES 1 to 2

ANNEXES

to the

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT**

**on the outcome of the implementation of the Eel Management Plans, including an
evaluation of the measures concerning restocking and of the evolution of market prices
for eels less than 12 cm in length**

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---|-----|
| IE | Follow ICES advice - do not believe in merits of restocking, but standing by for new scientific info | | | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 | N/A |
| NL | According to FR progress report: 2009-10 - 2890kg 2010-11 - 370kg 2011-12 - 2086kg | | | | | | 450 (UK) 440 (FR) | | 490 (UK) 550 (FR) | | |
| LT | | | | | | | | 1047 | | | |
| LV | Price included storage, transport and management | | | | | | | 100 | 2917* | | |
| PL | According to FR progress report: 2009-10 - 85kg 2010-11 - 85kg 2011-12 - 90kg | | | | | 85 | 650 | 85 | 500 | | |
| PT | Don't restock, but sell to Spain (Figures in <i>Italics</i>). | | 270 | | 209 | | 275 | <i>900</i> | 402 <i>300</i> | | |
| SE | According to FR progress report: 2009-10 - 870kg | | | | | | 575- 650 | | 575- 650 | | |
| SK | | 100 | 808 | 62 | 565 | 85 | 595 | 79.5 | 600 | | |
| UK | According to FR progress report: 2009-10 - 240kg 2010-11 - 1487kg 2011-12 - 400kg | | | 240 | | (865.1) 1401 | (476) | (948.3) 1080 | (395) | | |

NB. The table contains glass eel prices for the years 2008 to 2012. It has been difficult to obtain complete and relevant data from the Member States, in spite of numerous calls from the Commission to submit such data.

Annex II - Implementation of Restocking Measures

BE: In 2011 in Wallonia, 130,000 individuals (40 kg) of glass eels were stocked in some priority rivers such as Ourthe (12 kg) Amblève (8 kg), Aisne (1 kg), Méhaigne (2 kg) in the Lesse and the Meuse basin and the Dyle (1 kg) in Scheldt basin. In 2012 50 kg were restocked in rivers of the Meuse basin: Vesdre (6 kg), Haute Lesse (6 kg), Viroin (4 kg), Haute Sambre (6 kg), Biesme (2 kg), Biesmelle (2 kg), Hantes (2 kg), Thure (2 kg), Eau d'Heure (4 kg), Eau d'Heure Lakes (2kg). Restocking will continue over the next 4 years.

CZ: Fish stocking takes place in keeping with the management plan. Fish stocking is carried out in areas allowing for eel escaping into the sea. They include the Elbe River Basin, emptying into the North Sea, (problem-free migration), and the Odra River Basin, emptying into the Baltic Sea on the Polish coast, (here certain obstacles exist preventing eel from readily escaping into the Baltic Sea). For each of the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 950 kg of glass eel are planned to be imported into the Czech Republic. Of these, 700 kg will be paid for via the Fisheries Operational Programme and 250 kg will be paid from private funds of the Czech Fishing Union.

DK: Restocking has been fully implemented as described within the Danish EMP. The amount of restocked eel in freshwater has increased from year 2010, where funds from the European Fisheries Fund were granted. In the Danish EMP the amount of eel to be restocked was proposed to be 0.8 million eels. The actual amount of restocked eels has increased to 1.2-1.4 million eels in 2010 and 2011.

EE: The main proposal of EMP was to increase annual stocking amount of eel in the water bodies of Narva River Basin and to enhance the stocking with additional financing using European Fisheries Fund (EFF). Since 2011 stocking of eel has been additionally supported by EFF. Without stocking, a huge area with a high production potential would be cut off.

EL: The planned measure to restock 10% of the glass eel imported from other EU Member States (glass eel recruitment in Greece is very low) was not implemented fully due to financial constraints.

ES: All those autonomous communities which had restocking in their plans have executed restocking, albeit to varying extents. Asturias, Cantabria, Cataluña and Andalucía have fully implemented their restocking plans, while Valencia has only restocked 42% of what was foreseen. The Basque Country will only carry out delayed restocking.

FR: 45% of the catch quota of glass eel for the 2011-2012 fishing season was allocated to restocking within the EU. 5-10% of the catch was foreseen to be restocked within France, but the restocking executed for each fishing season between 2009 and 2012 is much lower than planned:

2009-2010: 0.33%
2010-2011: 1.69%
2011-2012: 8.34%

The reasons for failing to meet the restocking targets are late implementation of the French eel plans in 2009, detection of EVEX virus in glass eel, doubts about the ability to colonise certain areas, administrative and financial difficulties, and pollution of some target restocking areas. Restocking is being improved each year via acquired experience regarding suitable restocking locations and sanitary considerations.

Glass eel mortality within 15 days after restocking ranges from 6 to 72%, depending on the area. Survival within the first 6 months could not be determined accurately. In two of the restocking areas it was found that "at least some" eel survive. In the other two restocking areas no marked (restocked) eels were recaptured, therefore making it impossible to draw any conclusion about their survival rate.

LT: Stocking is one of the most important measures of the plan. The intensity of stocking depends on the availability of glass eel. It is possible to perform stocking with various eel life stages. The recommended stocking density for the Lithuanian water bodies is 100 glass eel individuals or 25 individuals of eel less than 20 cm in length per hectare.

Over the last decade, stocking has been performed occasionally using glass fry or cultured material with body weights of several grams. Despite the difficulties to start implementation of the EMP, the Fisheries service started to implement actions on it in the middle of the year 2011. 134 000 individuals of European eel less than 20 cm in length (approx. 10-11 g) were bought. In the period of two months (July-August, 2011) all the amount of acquired eels was stocked in 22 lakes of Lithuania.

NL: Restocking was foreseen to start in 2009, but started as of 2010. Restocking is done with pre-grown eels at least 28 cm long. The effectiveness of the current glass eel stocking program is unclear. Impact of the stocking program in the period 2009-2011 will not be visible until the glass eel has grown past 30 cm in length and may be captured in fisheries and eel monitoring programmes. Therefore it falls outside the period currently being evaluated. Introducing glass eel from France, Spain and England into Dutch waters will undoubtedly increase the biomass of silver eel in Dutch waters.

Activities during the period 2009-2012: Restocked glass eel and pre-grown eel

| Restocking Quantities | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| glass eel | 763 | 164 |
| pre-grown eel | 0 | 1395 |

PL: The intensity of stocking depends on the availability of glass eel in May and June. The recommended stocking amount for the Oder basin is 6 million individuals and for the Vistula basin it is 7 million. It is possible to stock with eel of various sizes. Over the last two decades, stocking has been performed using pre-grown eel weighing several grams to several hundred grams.

Results of studies performed by the Department of Fisheries Bioeconomics IFI indicate that in Poland there are at least ten large companies importing fingerlings for stocking purposes and one producer who rears imported glass eels and is linked to the Polish Angling Association in Suwałki. Most of the importers obtain fingerlings from aquaculture companies located in Denmark, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Lithuania, and France where commercial fattening of eel is performed on various scales, most of the fish weighing 100 to 1,000 grams each.

PT: The report does not describe how the obligation to reserve 60% of glass eel caught in the Minho (the only place in Portugal where glass eel fishing is permitted) is met. Potential locations for restocking have been identified. However, Portugal would like restocking to be reconsidered, especially as its contribution to recovery is doubtful, and also because it is financially and technically difficult to sustain.

SE: Increased restocking will not contribute to increased levels of silver eel escapement until 14 years (according to the EMP) after stocking. Glass eel are purchased from France and/or England, and are always quarantined to guarantee that no disease is introduced to Swedish waters. The targets in the EMP to increase the amount of restocking have been fulfilled.

In 2008, the amount of restocked glass eels in Sweden was 1-1.2 million individuals. The short-term target in the EMP was set to double this figure (2-2.5 million individuals) to 2010. This target was reached in the first year of implementation of the EMP. In 2010 and 2011, restocking on the East Coast ceased almost completely; restocking inland waters was focused in westward draining lakes, especially Lake Vänern and Lake Vombsjön to avoid future anthropogenic impacts on the stocking programme (i.e. fishing and hydropower mortality).

Given that restocking turned out to be such an important part of the EMPs and given the current low abundance of glass eel it has to be ensured that any restocking generates net benefits to the breeding population, and three basic conditions have to be fulfilled:

- There must be a surplus of glass eel where they are caught,
- There should be little or no anthropogenic mortality where they are released, and
- There should be a high probability that restocked eel can migrate to the Sargasso Sea (Several studies have been undertaken to track restocked eel migrating towards their spawning grounds, but it has not yet been adequately demonstrated that those eel are able to successfully complete the migration).