



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



10169/07 (Presse 123)

**PRESS RELEASE**

2806th Council meeting

**Agriculture and Fisheries**

Luxembourg, 11-12 June 2007

President      **Mr Horst SEEHOFER**  
Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer  
Protection of Germany

**P R E S S**

---

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 8716 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026  
[press.office@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:press.office@consilium.europa.eu) <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

10169/07 (Presse 123)

1  
**EN**

## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a regulation on the reform of the **fruit and vegetables sector**.*

*The Council, in agreement with the Commission, adopted conclusions on the application of **cross-compliance**.*

*The Council reached political agreement on a regulation updating the rules governing **production and labelling of organic products**.*

*The Council reached political agreement on a **single Common Market Organisation (CMO)** regulation simplifying and consolidating the existing specific CMOs, on a recovery plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and on Greenland fisheries partnership.*

*Without discussion, the Council adopted a Regulation establishing a recovery plan for **bluefin tuna**, for **sole** and **plaice** in the North Sea and for European **eel**. It also adopted new traceability and labelling rules for **veal meat** and a scheme for **maize** intervention.*

**CONTENTS<sup>1</sup>**

<b>PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
--------------------------	----------

**ITEMS DEBATED**

COD STOCKS IN BALTIC SEA .....	7
GREENLAND .....	10
DISCARDS AND BY-CATCHES IN FISHERIES - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	11
CROSS COMPLIANCE - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	12
SINGLE COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION (CMO).....	13
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES .....	14
ORGANIC PRODUCTS - LABELLING .....	16
OTHER BUSINESS .....	17

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED***AGRICULTURE*

– Maize intervention* .....	19
– European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund .....	19
– Potato cyst nematodes (PCNs) .....	20
– Meat of bovine animals younger than 12 months* .....	20
– Potato starch quotas* .....	21
– Arrangements with third countries in the veterinary and plant health fields - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	21

<sup>1</sup>

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

*FISHERIES*

– Eels*	22
– Bluefin tuna*	24
– Aquaculture – Alien species – Protection of aquatic ecosystems	25
– Regional Advisory Councils*	25
– Stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea*	25

*EXTERNAL RELATIONS*

– Liberia - Termination of certain restrictive measures	26
---	----

*TRADE POLICY*

– EC-Turkey Association Council - Trade concessions for processed agricultural products	26
---	----

## PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

### Belgium:

Ms Sabine LARUELLE

Minister for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, the Liberal Professions and the Self-Employed and Agriculture  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr Louis MOURAUX

### Bulgaria:

Mr Nihat KABIL

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

### Czech Republic:

Mr Ivo HLAVÁČ

First Deputy Minister for Agriculture

### Denmark:

Mr Hans Christian SCHMIDT

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

### Germany:

Mr Horst SEEHOFER

Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Mr Gert LINDEMANN

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

### Estonia:

Mr Tiit NABER

Deputy Permanent Representative

### Ireland:

Ms Mary COUGHLAN

Minister for Agriculture and Food

Mr John BROWNE

Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

### Greece:

Mr Evangelos BASIAKOS

Minister for Rural Development and Food

### Spain:

Ms Elena ESPINOSA MANGANA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Ms Servanda GARCÍA FERNÁNDEZ

Minister for Rural Affairs and Fisheries of the Autonomous Community of Asturias

Mr Joaquín LLENA i CORTINA

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Action of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia

### France:

Ms Christine LAGARDE

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

### Italy:

Mr Paolo DE CASTRO

Minister for Agricultural and Forestry Policy

### Cyprus:

Mr Fotis FOTIOU

Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

### Latvia:

Mr Mārtiņš ROZE

Minister for Agriculture

### Lithuania:

Ms Kazimira Danutė PRUNSKIENĖ

Minister for Agriculture

### Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister for Small and Medium-sized Businesses, the Liberal Professions and the Self-Employed, Tourism and Housing

Ms Octavie MODERT

State Secretary for Relations with Parliament, State Secretary for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, State Secretary for Culture, Higher Education and Research

**Hungary:**

Mr József GRÁF

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Malta:**

Mr Francis AGIUS

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries,  
Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment**Netherlands:**

Ms Gerritje VERBURG

Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

**Austria:**

Mr Josef PRÖLL

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, the  
Environment and Water Management**Poland**

Mr Andrzej LEPPER

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Rural  
Development

Mr Rafał WIECHECKI

Minister for Maritime Economy

**Portugal:**

Mr Jaime SILVA

Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries

**Romania:**

Ms Cornelia HARABAGIU

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural  
Development**Slovenia:**

Ms Branka TOME

State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Food**Slovakia:**

Mr Miroslav JUREŇA

Minister for Agriculture

**Finland:**

Ms Sirkka-Liisa ANTTILA

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

**Sweden:**

Mr Eskil ERLANDSSON

Minister for Agriculture

**United Kingdom:**

Mr David MILIBAND

Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural  
Affairs

Mr Ben BRADSHAW

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local  
Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare

Mr Richard LOCHHEAD

Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural  
Affairs**Commission:**

Mr Joe BORG

Member

Ms Mariann FISCHER BOEL

Member

**ITEMS DEBATED****COD STOCKS IN BALTIC SEA**

The Council reached a political agreement on a regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea, on the basis of a Presidency compromise endorsed by the Commission.

The Council also agreed to amend the "TAC and Quotas regulation" for the Baltic Sea accordingly, when adopting other amendments later this month.

The Commission issued two statements, one concerning recovery of fishing days for those Member States which had permanently reduced their fleets, and the other on incentives for equipping vessels with Electronic Reporting Systems and satellite-based Vessel Monitoring Systems.

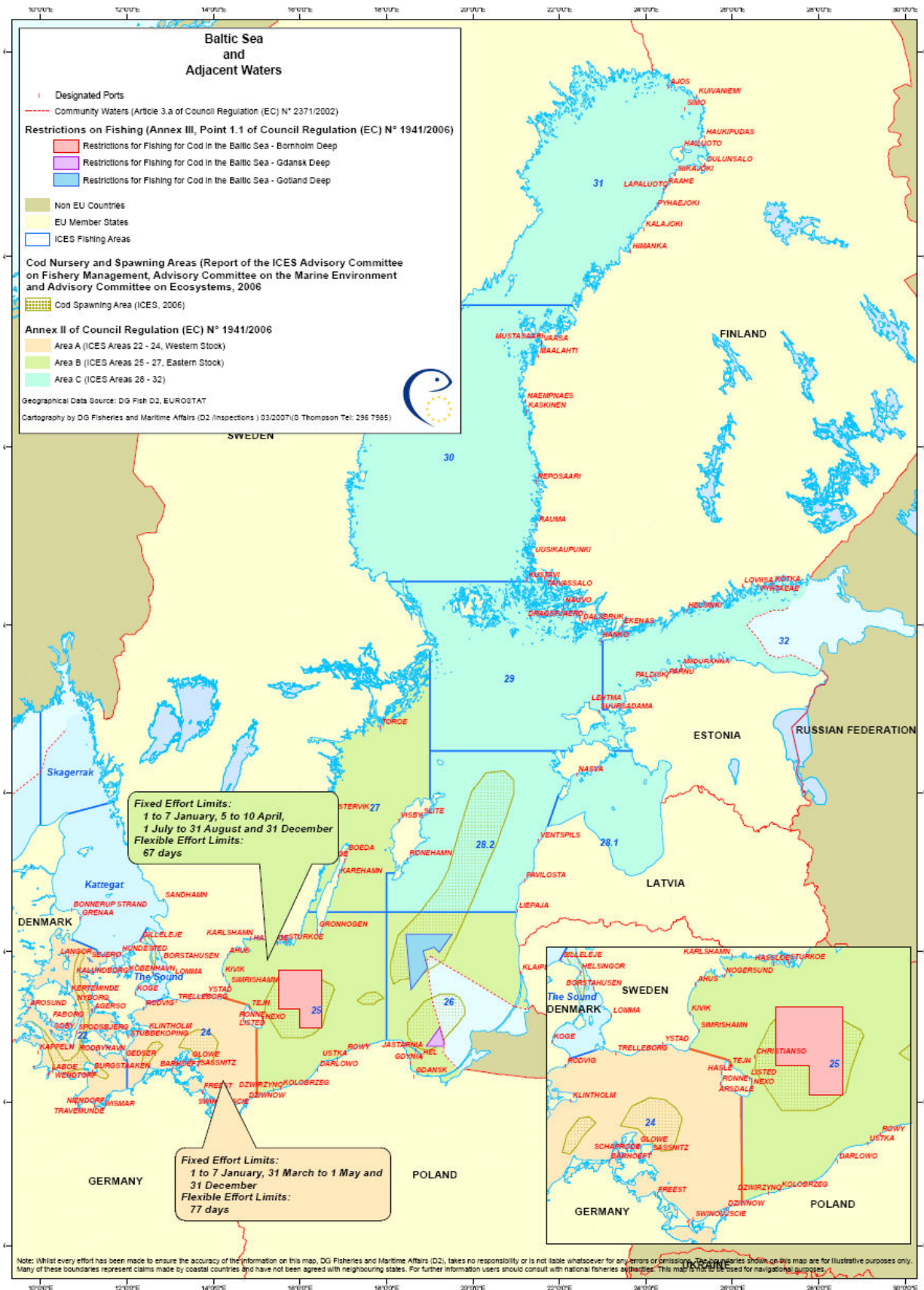
The main features of the compromise are:

- exclusion of the Gulf of Riga from the plan on the grounds that the salinity of the water is too low for cod, under certain conditions to be verified;
- greater flexibility for small scale vessels between 8-12 m long to transfer 5 and 10 fishing days for Western and Eastern Baltic Sea respectively (5 days per month of summer ban in both cases);
- area restrictions on fishing, measured with the help of a satellite coordination system;
- Member States to issue a special fishing permit for cod for certain vessels, recorded on a list made available on their official website;
- keeping of a logbook on board Community vessels of an overall length of 8 m or more;
- electronic recording and transmission of catch data;

- recording of leaving and entering ports of the Baltic Sea;
- landing in designated ports for vessels carrying more than 750 kg of cod live weight. Member States to establish a list of designated ports and make it available on their respective official website.

The European Parliament delivered its opinion on 7 June 2007.





**GREENLAND**

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a regulation on the conclusion of the fisheries partnership agreement between the European community and Greenland.

The Council will adopt the text, after legal/linguistic finalisation, as an "A" item at one of its forthcoming meetings.

The Council and the Commission issued a joint statement with regard to the reallocation of fishing opportunities in the framework of fisheries partnerships with third countries.

The first payment to Greenland in the framework of the agreement should be made by the end of June 2007.

The date beyond which the provisions concerning the reallocation of fishing opportunities by the Commission shall apply, are as follows:

Fishing species of the Protocol	Timetable
Shrimp (East)	1 August <sup>1</sup>
Greenland halibut (East)	15 September
Atlantic halibut	1 September
Greenland halibut (West)	15 October
Shrimp (West)	1 October
Redfish	1 September
Snowcrab	1 October
Cod	31 October

---

<sup>1</sup> If the level of utilisation of fishing opportunities based on licence applications is, on 1 August, more than 65%, then this date shall be postponed to 1 September.

**DISCARDS AND BY-CATCHES IN FISHERIES - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted conclusions on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament *A policy to reduce unwanted by-catches and eliminate discards in European fisheries.*

- Link to the full text of the Council conclusions (11063/07):  
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st11/st11063.en07.pdf>

**CROSS COMPLIANCE - *Council conclusions***

The Council, in agreement with the Commission, adopted conclusions on the report from the Commission to the Council on the application of the system of cross-compliance (7991/07).

- Link to the full text of the Council conclusions (10682/07):  
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st10/st10682.en07.pdf>

## **SINGLE COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION (CMO)**

The Council reached political agreement on the draft regulation establishing a single Common Market Organisation, with Cyprus indicating its intention to vote against (*10138/07 ADD1*).

When adopting the regulation, the Council decided to enter in its minutes the Commission statements set out in *10138/07 ADD2* as well as the statements made by Cyprus and Greece set out in *10138/07 ADD3 and ADD4*, both supported by Malta.

The regulation is the flagship of the Commission's action plan to simplify and rationalise the Common Agricultural Policy.

- The proposal brings together in a single regulation the existing 21 common market organisations (CMOs) and 23 related Council acts<sup>2</sup>, and takes a horizontal approach. This would allow over 40 existing Council acts to be repealed.
- Whilst remaining a technical exercise which is neither intended to change the underlying policy decisions taken by the Council nor to alter the current scope of the existing CMOs, the proposal does imply more than mere consolidation. It aims to create a horizontal legal framework, thus requiring re-drafting and a reduction in the detail that could be covered by implementing legislation.
- The regulation is to apply as of 1 January 2008 with different dates set throughout 2008 according to the sector concerned.

The Parliament opinion was delivered on 24 May 2007.

---

<sup>2</sup> In particular Council Regulations concerning agricultural products which are currently not subject to a CMO (silk worms, ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and apiculture products), competition and state aid rules, rules on private storage and public intervention and rules on sugar and milk quotas.

## **FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a reform of the fruit and vegetables sector, on the basis of an overall compromise drawn up by the Presidency in agreement with the Commission (*therefore the Commission proposal is agreed as contained in 5572/07, amended by 10333/07 and subject to further modifications agreed by the Council*).

The Commission made several statements either to clarify certain interpretations of the compromise or to undertake future actions, such as the possibility of introducing a **school fruit scheme** to help fight against obesity amongst European children or to continue to ensure an adequate level of **phytosanitary** protection for Community fruit and vegetable production.

The cornerstone of the proposed reform is to transfer funds from processing aid to the **decoupled Single Payment Scheme (SPS)**. A special transitional direct payment financed by the Community budget for a period of 5 years ending on 31 December 2012 will be established for **raspberries** and **strawberries** intended for processing in certain new Member States.

The payment will be 100% decoupled. However, **transitional periods** are foreseen as follows:

- up to four years, for tomatoes (31 December 2011) provided that the coupled part of the payment does not exceed 50% of the corresponding component of the national ceiling;
- up to five years, for crops other than annual crops (31 December 2012) provided that the coupled part of the payment does not exceed 75% of the corresponding component of the national ceiling in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

The role of **Producer Organisations (PO)** has been reinforced and their rules simplified.

Member States and POs will develop **Operational Programmes (OPs)** which should include two or more **environmental** actions, including those addressing emission of greenhouse gases or the reduction of packaging waste, or at least 10 % of the expenditure for such programs.

Moreover, the inclusion of F&V in the SPS means that **cross compliance** will become mandatory for farmers receiving direct payments.

There will be a 60 % Community cofinancing rate for **organic** production in each Operational Programme.

**Crisis management** will be organised through Producer Organisations<sup>3</sup> and will not comprise more than 33% of the expenditure under the OPs. Crisis management tools include green harvesting/non-harvesting, promotion and communication tools, training, harvest insurance, and financing of the administrative costs of setting up mutual funds. POs will be permitted to exceed the limit of 4,1% of the value of the marketed production up to 4,6% to finance crisis prevention and management.

Last but not least, in order to finance crisis prevention and management on a **multiannual** basis, POs may take out **loans** on commercial terms for which the repayment of the capital and interests may form part of the OP up to the limit of 33% per annual expenditure.

POs will be able to include **Promotion** of F&V consumption in their operational programmes, with a special focus on promotion targeted at **children** in educational establishment.

The European Parliament delivered its opinion on 7 June 2007.

---

<sup>3</sup> However, a certain flexibility is left to Member States to extend crisis management measures to the benefit of non members who enter into a contract with a PO.

## **ORGANIC PRODUCTS - LABELLING**

The Council reached political agreement, by qualified majority, on a regulation repealing the existing rules, adopted in 1991, governing the production and labelling of organic products (8620/07).

The new regulation intends to respond to the growth in consumer demand in recent years and the increase of the market share in most Member States.

It will improve traceability and consumer information through compulsory indications such as "EU agriculture" where agricultural raw material has been farmed in the EU, the possibility of using the Community organic production logo as well as national and private logos.

The new regulation will apply as from 1 January 2009. It defines principles encouraging:

- natural animal health, plant health, husbandry and feed practices;
- recycling of wastes of plant and animal origin

It confirms the prohibition of the use of GMOs and ionising radiation and defines harmonised rules for the production and labelling of organic products, including processed products, and for controls on imports of such products. Where food and feed additives are not naturally available on the market the regulation provides a derogation for additives produced by GMOs.

The European Parliament delivered its opinion on 22 May 2007.



**OTHER BUSINESS**– ***Conference of Directors of EU Paying agencies***

The Council took note of the written information provided by the Presidency concerning the conclusions of the 21st conference of Directors of EU Paying agencies which was held in Potsdam (Germany) from 25 to 27 April 2007 (9778/07).

The conclusions tackled certain main issues such as the need to continue simplification of the CAP, the ways and means of improving efficiency of controls and improving cooperation with other authorities, particularly in the area of cross compliance.

– ***Common proposal from several new Member States on cross compliance***

The Council took note of the common proposal made by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia concerning the implementation of the system in those Member States (10481/07).

– ***World Trade Organisation (WTO)-Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations***

Commissioner Fischer Boel reported to the Council on recent bilateral and multilateral contacts, both at technical and political level, and on the outlook for the next phase of negotiations.

The Commission repeated that any new offer on agriculture from the EU was dependent on clear moves from our principal negotiating partners and that since the negotiations were a single undertaking "nothing was agreed until all is agreed".

The Presidency thanked the Commissioner for her regular and comprehensive updating of the Council on WTO negotiations and reiterated the Council's support for the Commission in the framework of the mandate defined by its conclusions of 18 October 2005 (13378/05) and 12 June 2006 (9947/06).

– ***Plant protection products - sustainable use of pesticides***

The Council took note of the state of play of the discussions on the package of draft legislation on the placing of plant protection products on the market (11755/06 + ADD1-12) and on sustainable use of pesticides (11896/06) respectively.

The Council also took note of comments made by Denmark on the impact on soils and by Hungary on the establishment of areas for mutual recognition.

At the core of the proposal lies a new approach for the authorisation and the use of plant protection products which aims at reconciling the production needs of farmers with environmental, and public health concerns.

The package was first presented to the Council in September 2006 and the Council preparatory bodies have made substantial headway in the examination of both proposals.

– ***Fishing opportunities for 2008***

The Council took note of the information provided by Mr Joe Borg, Commissioner for Fisheries, on the Communication from the Commission on fishing opportunities for 2008, adopted on 6 June 2007.

Commissioner Borg indicated that the policy statement was based on the latest available scientific recommendations and should lead to a further reduction of fishing efforts in order to achieve a sustainable level of the stocks in question.

– ***Fishing opportunities for sandeel in 2007***

The Council took note of the Danish, German, Polish, Swedish, British and Commissioner's comments on sandeel fishing opportunities in the North Sea with regard to the model used by ICES to calculate them and in connection with the sharing of fishing areas with Norway (10314/07).

– ***Illegal use of drift nets***

The Council took note of the British concerns with regard to the illegal use of drift nets (10495/07).

Commissioner Borg mentioned that a clear definition for such drift nets, to be adopted before the end of the German Presidency, will improve implementation of the ban on their use and will help the Commission to take the appropriate measures against illegal fishing, including infringement procedures.

## **OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

### **AGRICULTURE**

#### **Maize intervention\***

The Council adopted a regulation introducing a ceiling on the quantities of maize eligible for intervention (9148/07). Cyprus and Hungary abstained with Bulgaria, Denmark and Greece voting against.

The legal instrument for intervention is maintained pending the review of the functioning of the cereals common market organisation in the framework of the 2008 “health check” of the common agricultural policy (CMO).

The ceilings for Community intervention of maize are set as follows:

- 1,5 million tonnes for the 2007/2008 marketing year;
- 0,7 million tonnes for the 2008/02009 marketing year;
- 0 tonnes, as from the 2009/2010 marketing year.

The Commission issued a statement concerning the monitoring of the maize situation, the review of the cereals CMO and the possibility of increasing intervention quantities should market conditions require it (9683/07 ADD1). Poland also issued a statement (9683/07 ADD2).

#### **European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund**

The Council adopted a regulation introducing a temporary amendment of the financing conditions by the European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) for the cost of the funds mobilised by EU member states for public storage operations (7905/07). The United Kingdom abstained and Slovakia voted against.

The measure is intended to alleviate in 2007 and 2008 the additional costs for such operations incurred by member states with very high internal interest rates (Hungary, which also used to have the main concentration of maize bulk storage, is one of them).

### **Potato cyst nematodes (PCNs)**

The Council adopted a directive on the control of potato cyst nematodes (*Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochiensis*) (9365/07).

The directive introduces more comprehensive control measures regarding these harmful organisms, in order to determine their distribution, prevent their spread and control them.

The main measures contained in the directive are as follows:

- official investigations to determine the plant health status of potato fields with regard to the potato cyst nematodes risk;
- official surveys, by the way of sampling and testing, to be carried out annually and transmitted to the Commission departments;

The European Parliament issued its opinion on 5 July 2005.

### **Meat of bovine animals younger than 12 months\***

The Council adopted by qualified majority (Ireland, Greece, Portugal and UK voted against and Austria abstained), a regulation introducing provisions on traceability and labelling of meat of bovine animals aged 12 months or less all over the food chain (9801/07).

Greece and Portugal made statements.

Under the regulation, animals slaughtered:

- younger than 8 months: will be marked “V” at the slaughterhouse and the corresponding meat labelled as “veal”, or its equivalent wording in community languages according to part A of the annex to the regulation;

- older than 8 months and up to 12 months: will be marked “Z” at the slaughterhouse and the corresponding meat labelled as “rosé veal”, or its equivalent wording in Community languages according to part B of the Annex to the regulation.

In addition to the specified denominations for “veal” or “rosé veal” the age of the animals (up to 8 months or 8 to 12 months) will be displayed to the consumer.

Operators will therefore register the age of all bovine animals to ensure the accurate use of sale descriptions, but the existing registration system for beef meat could be used for that purpose.

### **Potato starch quotas\***

The Council adopted a regulation allocating potato starch quotas for the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 marketing years (8725/07 + 9682/07 ADD1). The Polish delegation abstained and the Lithuanian delegation voted against.

The regulation will apply as from 1 July 2007. It amends Regulation No 1868/94 establishing a quota system in relation to the production of potato starch.

### **Arrangements with third countries in the veterinary and plant health fields - *Council conclusions***

The Council adopted conclusions on procedural principles for arrangements with third countries in the veterinary and plant health fields.

- Link to the full text of the Council conclusions (10252/07 ADD1):  
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st10/st10252-ad01.en07.pdf>

**FISHERIES****Eels\***

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel, on the basis of a compromise drawn up by the Presidency, which the Commission could endorse (*10361/07 ADD1*).

The Council and the Commission issued three statements which are set out in *10361/07 ADD2*.

The Regulation will be adopted as an "A"-item by the Council at a forthcoming meeting.

The main measures introduced by the regulation are the following:

- following the enlargement of the European Community, the Black Sea has been included into the scope in order to allow those Member States having river basins connected with the Black Sea to implement recovery plans if appropriate;
- each Member State<sup>4</sup> to establish a national management plan for each eel river basin allowing the escapement to the sea of an average of at least 40% of the biomass<sup>5</sup> of adult eel;
- management plans shall describe the means to reach the target, to monitor and verify the attainment of the objective;
- where Member States share river basins with other Member States, they should jointly with the countries concerned prepare transboundary plans or endeavour to develop cooperation with third countries;
- each Member State to communicate its national plan by 31 December 2008 and to implement them at the latest by 1 July 2009, following their approval by the Commission;

---

<sup>4</sup> Except those Member States which do not have natural habitats of the European eel on their territory.

<sup>5</sup> Of the best estimate in the absence of human influences which means the most appropriate period prior to 1980.

- each Member States to report, for the first time by 30 June 2012, and then every 3 years, to the Commission on the results of its national eel management plan, outlining the monitoring, effectiveness and outcome of the plan;
- Commission to report by 31 December 2013 to the Parliament and the Council on the scientific evaluation of the eel management plans;
- Member States allowing the fishing of eels under 12 cm shall reserve 60% of the catches for restocking, starting at 35% in the first year of application of the eel management plan and increasing by steps of at least 5% per year to reach the level of 60% by 31 July 2013;
- the Commission shall report annually to the Council on the evolution of market prices for “glass eels”, on the basis of information provided by Member States and, if necessary , make the appropriate proposals either to balance the measures concerning restocking or to intervene on the above mentioned percentages.

The European eel life cycle:

- it spawns in the Sargasso Sea (in the Caribbean);
- it drifts across the Atlantic to the seas and rivers of Europe;
- glass eels (juveniles) are in maritime waters and rivers;
- yellow eels (elvers) swim up rivers;
- silver eels (adults) migrate down rivers to go back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn.

**Bluefin tuna\***

The Council adopted by qualified majority (UK and IE voted against and orally commented their votes) a regulation introducing a recovery plan for bluefin tuna (8367/4/07 REV4) as recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Council and the Commission issued joint statements (9299/07).

The proposal introduces new measures based on the recommendation of ICCAT concerning bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), namely:

- technical measures (seasonal restrictions for large-scale pelagic longline vessels over 24 m, purse seine fishing, bait boats and pelagic trawlers);
- use of airplanes or helicopters banned for searching bluefin tuna;
- minimum landing size 30 kg or 115 cm (possible derogations to 8 kg or 75 cm for bluefin tuna caught in the Eastern Atlantic by bait boats, trolling boats and pelagic trawlers, under certain conditions, and for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes);
- recreational fisheries limitation to one individual;
- marketing of recreational and sport fisheries banned except for charitable purposes;
- designated ports;
- transshipment banned except for large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels;
- registration and issuing of fishing permit or licence both for fishing vessels according to their national flags and for tuna traps.

At its annual meeting in November 2006, the ICCAT adopted a recommendation to establish a 15-year recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the area mentioned.



## **Aquaculture – Alien species – Protection of aquatic ecosystems**

The Council adopted a regulation aimed at protecting the aquatic environment from risks associated with the use of non-native species in aquaculture, and for contributing to the sustainable development of this sector in Europe (7516/07).

The regulation establishes a Community framework and sets up an authorisation system at national level for the introduction or translocation of aquatic organisms for use in aquaculture, with a view to optimising benefits associated with these practices in the EU, whilst avoiding alterations to ecosystems, preventing negative biological interaction with indigenous populations and restricting the spread of non-target species and detrimental impacts on natural habitats.

The new measures are in line with the United Nations Convention on biological diversity, which identifies some invasive alien species as one of the causes of loss of local species and harm to marine and coastal biodiversity.

## **Regional Advisory Councils\***

The Council adopted a Decision amending Decision 2004/585/EC<sup>6</sup> establishing Regional Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy (9304/07).

## **Stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea\***

The Council adopted a Council Regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for fisheries exploiting the stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea (7716/07).

This Regulation will aim at gradually implementing progressively an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and will contribute to efficient fishing activities within an economically viable and competitive fisheries industry, providing a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing North Sea plaice and sole and taking into account the interests of consumers.

The plan will cover all flatfish fisheries having a significant impact on the fishing mortality of the plaice and sole stocks concerned. However, Member States whose quotas for either stock are less than 5 % of the European Community's share of the TAC should be exempted from the provisions of the plan concerning effort management.

This plan should be the main instrument for flatfish management in the North Sea, and is expected to contribute to the recovery of other stocks such as cod.

---

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 256, 3.8.2004, p.17-22.

## **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

### **Liberia - Termination of certain restrictive measures**

The Council adopted a Common Position terminating certain restrictive measures against Liberia.

Following UN Security Council Resolution 1521(2003), the Council adopted Common Position 2004/137/CFSP imposing restrictive measures against Liberia, concerning inter alia a ban on imports of all rough diamonds from Liberia into the Community. On 27 April 2007, the UN terminated the measures on diamonds. The corresponding measures imposed by Common Position 2004/137/CFSP must also therefore be terminated.

The Common Position will apply from 27 April 2007.

## **TRADE POLICY**

### **EC-Turkey Association Council - Trade concessions for processed agricultural products**

The Council approved a position to be adopted by the Community within the EC-Turkey Association Council with a view to amending the trade concessions for processed agricultural products covered by decision 1/95 of the EC-Turkey Association Council on implementing the final phase of the customs union and by Decision 1/97 on the arrangements applicable to certain processed agricultural products (*10191/07 and CE-TR 101/07*).

The final Decision, to be adopted by the EC-Turkey Association Council, aims at adapting the existing trade regime for processed agricultural products in order to take account of the EU enlargement to ten new member states in May 2004. Decision 1/97 would be repealed.

---