



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 12 January 2011

**13568/1/04
REV 1**

**PECHE 325
LIBYE 9**

DECLASSIFICATION

of document: 13568/04 RESTREINT UE

dated: 15 October 2004

new classification: none

Subject: Libya (information from the Commission)

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

RESTREINT UE



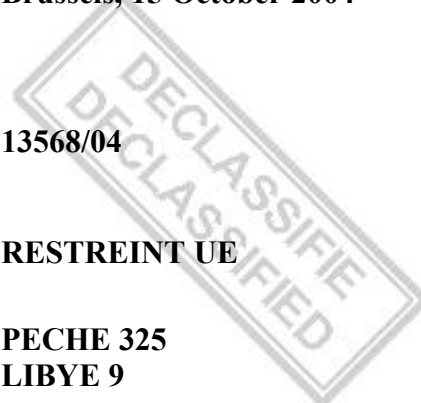
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : Working Party on External Fisheries Policy

on : 14 October 2004

Subject : Libya (information from the Commission)

1. The Commission representative explained that the request to bring up Libya under *Any other business* was based on the fact that the Foreign Affairs Council on Monday 11 October 2004 had adopted conclusions whereby the Community's sanctions against Libya had been lifted. He highlighted point 8 of these conclusions ¹ which reads *the Council is ready to examine a Commission mandate for negotiations on a fisheries agreement with Libya*. He recalled that the Working Party has already completed the technical work on such a mandate ², but that the adoption had been postponed to allow the German and French delegations to lift their reservations on political grounds.
2. The German and French delegations declared that their reservations were now lifted.

¹ Cf. doc. 13148/04 LIMITE PESC 817 COMAG 18 LIBYE 7.

² Cf. doc. 13228/03 PECHE 230 RESTREINT UE.

RESTREINT UE

2. The Commission services would like to begin negotiations as soon as the mandate is adopted. They intend to propose to the Libyan authorities that technical talks of an exploratory nature take place in Tripoli between 25 and 28 October this month. Member States would be invited to these talks. These dates are subject to confirmation. Should the negotiation mandate be adopted by then, these talks will become negotiations for a new fisheries partnership agreement.
3. He continued by underlining the urgent need to discuss a negotiation strategy with Member States before these talks, regardless of their nature, and would like this discussion to be commenced in the Working Party as soon as possible. He also stated that the Commission services would seek to organise a technical meeting with Member States before going to Libya. With a view to facilitating the discussion on a negotiation strategy, he committed to shortly making available non-papers containing an extract of the impact assessment and the outline of a possible text for such an agreement. He recognised that this debate could not begin under *Any other business*, but wished to outline the current reflections of the Commission services: the structure and contents would be based on standard features, i.e. to propose a framework agreement for approximately six years combined with a renewable protocol of shorter duration.
4. With regard to fishing possibilities, the Commission services would shortly request Member States to confirm or state the fishing possibilities their fleets would be interested in fishing. On the basis of the information available, the Commission services were of the opinion that an agreement would be able to provide for about 20 demersal longliners (of approximately 200 tonnes each), a few trawlers, possibly 5 (of approximately 200 tonnes each) and a handful of vessels for sponge fishery. The possibilities for the highly valuable Bluefin tuna seem good and should allow for approximately 10 purse seiners and 3 surface longliners.
5. The German, Italian and United Kingdom delegation agreed with the Commission representative for the need to have detailed discussions and requested that the promised documentation would be made available as soon as possible.

RESTREINT UE

6. The Presidency concluded that the draft mandate would go forward for adoption as an A-item with a view to a swift adoption and that the talks would be of an exploratory nature until the mandate is adopted. He requested that the Commission services seek to transmit the above-mentioned documentation as soon as possible, preferably already this week so that a useful discussion could take place next week in the Working Party. Likewise, he hoped that the technical meeting could take place before the next Working Party.

