

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION Brussels, 25 April 2007

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LIMITE

PECHE 122

NOTE

Latvian delegation from:

to: Working Party on Internal Fisheries Policy

No. Cion prop.: 13139/05 PECHE 203 - COM(2005) 472 final

Subject: Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the

stock of European eel

Delegations will find attached written comments from the Latvian delegation on the European eel recovery plan, presented by the Minister during AGRI/FISH Council meeting on 16 April 2007.

> MAM/il LIMITE

Latvia would like to highlight the following few important issues, which it would like to be reflected in the next working documents.

Firstly, the reduction of fishing effort should not be applied to the waters:

- o where the migration of natural eel is not possible (fishing is based only on stocking);
- o where specialised (directed) eel fishery is not performed;
- o where the amount of eel by-catch in the above-mentioned waters is only a few specimens.

Secondly, control measures should not be applied to a leisure fisheries, since in Latvia there are no neither traditions nor praxis to perform such a specialised leisure fishing (or angling) for eel, but there is still possibility occasionally to catch few eel. Such control provisions would only lead to a complication of legislation and over-burdening of administrative capacities without real benefits to conservation.