



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council

to : COREPER /COUNCIL

No. Cion 12604/08 ENV 508 AGRI 257 MI 285 COMER 163 PECHE 304 CODEC 1044
prop.:

Subject : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning
trade in seal products [**first reading**]
- Adoption of the legislative act (LA + S)
Statements

Statement by Denmark

Denmark has during the negotiations underlined the economic and cultural importance of seal hunting for Greenland, especially for the Greenlandic hunters who live in small, remote coastal communities and who rely heavily on the trade in sealskin. Seal hunting in Greenland takes place on a sustainable basis. Denmark acknowledges that the Regulation permits trade in seal products resulting from hunts conducted by Inuit communities. However, Denmark is of the opinion that trade in seal products as a whole is a legitimate activity, which should not be unnecessarily hampered and stigmatised. Denmark is of the opinion that the Regulation could negatively impact the trade in seal products and as a consequence have severe adverse effects for the Greenlandic seal hunters. Denmark doubts whether there is a market rationale and justification for the Regulation as adopted, noting in particular that sustainable seal hunting is possible with full respect for legitimate animal welfare concerns. Against this background, Denmark has decided to abstain from voting.

Statement by Sweden, Finland and Estonia

The delegations of Sweden, Finland and Estonia wish to make the following statement concerning the adoption of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning trade in Seal Products.

The Regulation introduces a general ban on the placing on the market of seal products, with some exemptions. These exemptions are of fundamental importance, in order to ensure that seal products that result from hunting regulated under national law with the sole purpose of the sustainable management of marine resources and hunts traditionally conducted by Inuit and other indigenous communities can continue to be placed on the European market.

In this context, Sweden, Finland and Estonia would like to point out that hunting is not an area of EC competence, unless it is linked to the conservation of species.

Sweden, Finland and Estonia would also like to express their concern on the negative trade policy implications the Council Regulation will have and the likely harm this regulation will bring to EC trade relations with important trading partners.
