



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 January 2010**

**5033/10**

**PECHE 2**

**NOTE**

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from: Council Secretariat  
to: Delegations

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No. Cion prop.: 14738/09 PECHE 287 + ADD 1  
(J/L doc. 17323/09 PECHE 376)

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Subject: Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2010 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required  
- Statements by delegations

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Delegations will find attached statements made by delegations.

Council and Commission statements will appear in a separate document (doc. 5032/10 PECHE 1).

**1. Joint Statement by the United Kingdom and Ireland on the Hague Preferences**

"The United Kingdom and Ireland consider that the Hague Preference constitutes an integral part of relative stability, reflecting the need to safeguard the special needs of regions where local populations are especially dependent on fisheries and related industries. This is specifically recognised in Community fisheries policy and was set down in Council Regulation No 170/83 and Council Regulation No 3760/92. It has again been restated in Council Regulation No 2371/2002."

**2. Statement by Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands on the Hague Preferences**

"Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands are of the opinion that the scales for the allocation of quotas for Member States were finally agreed upon in 1983. These scales constitute the basis of relative stability, which is a principle established by the Basic Regulation governing the Common Fisheries Policy. It is our opinion that Hague Preferences are contrary to the principle of relative stability."

**3. Statement by Portugal on Svalbard cod**

"Following the Norwegian understanding with regard to the level of the 2009 SVALBARD cod quota, several Portuguese vessels were unable to take their full quotas during 2009 and, until now, no solution has been found in order to compensate the concerned vessels for their heavy financial losses.

Portugal was entitled to that level of fishing quota in SVALBARD waters by the Council of Ministers in December 2008.

Therefore, the Commission should ensure that a proper solution is worked out, either through the reposition of the relative stability of 2009, or in the framework of the bilateral relations with Norway, with a view to allow Portuguese vessels to fish the remaining 2009 Portuguese quota in SVALBARD waters in 2010."

#### 4. Statement by Greece on bluefin tuna

"The Greek delegation would like to point out the serious socio-economic consequences that will be caused by the drastic reduction of the total allowable catch (TAC) for bluefin tuna agreed at the annual ICCAT meeting. The European Commission should offset those consequences through new financial support measures in favour of the fishermen affected, as part of the implementation of the new ICCAT recommendations in 2010.

Furthermore, Greece would refer again to its 1999 request for a review of the statistics relating to bluefin tuna fishing, in the light of ICCAT's revised data. This stance was acknowledged by the Council in a statement in December 1999, but there was no follow-up. A review would permit a more equitable calculation for the allocation of the Community quota for bluefin tuna among the Member States, on the basis of the historical data."

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