



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 March 2010 (18.03)
(OR. en,it)**

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PECHE 47

NOTE

From: Italian delegation
To: Council

Subject: Implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 ("Mediterranean")
– Request by the Italian delegation

Delegations will find attached a document submitted by the Italian delegation, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 29 March 2010.

Implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 ("Mediterranean")

Italy would like to draw attention to the difficulties which have arisen in connection with the timely and full application of the provisions contained in Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea.

This Regulation was in fact presented at the end of difficult negotiations lasting over three years, which introduced important amendments with regard to the Commission's initial proposal. Inevitably, the search for the final compromise has affected the clarity of some rules which have turned out to be complex and difficult to interpret.

In the course of 2008, following technical meetings between the Commission and the national administrations, consideration was given to submitting a proposal for a Regulation to clarify the most controversial points and facilitate application of the legislation. The initiative was abandoned since the Commission considered that taking the path of re-opening discussions in the Council was not feasible.

Furthermore, the implementation of the new legal environment required lengthy and demanding work on the part of the Member States and the Commission's Directorate-General MARE, which is still under way.

The new minimum distances, as is known, will come into force on 1 June 2010; this concerns 3 400 vessels in Italy and it is appropriate to point out the fleets' growing unease at the imminent ban on traditional and special fishing, which will have a worrying social and economic impact, given the strong territorial concentration of this activity.

In view of the above considerations, Italy considers that the difficulties arising in the application of Regulation No 1967/2006 must be discussed by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

The objective is to allow for orderly and pragmatic implementation of the most complex Community provisions by fishing enterprises and by the Member States.

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