



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 June 2011

11904/11

PECHE 165

NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Council

Subject: European funding for the fisheries sector post-2013
– Joint declaration of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia,
Lithuania, Poland and Romania

Delegations will find annexed the above joint declaration to be dealt with under "Any Other Business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 28 June 2011.

JOINT DECLARATION OF BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, HUNGARY,
LATVIA,
LITHUANIA, POLAND AND ROMANIA
ON THE EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR FISHERIES SECTOR POST-2013

FOLLOWING the meeting of their representatives in Cracow in March 2011,

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of European fisheries in providing food safety while ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and its potential to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy,

AWARE of the need for reform of Common Fisheries Policy in order to secure sustainable management of the natural resources for the sake the current as well as the future generations, and in this context, STRESSING the necessity to reflect the degree of ambition of the upcoming reform in the level of funding available for its support measures,

EMPHASISING the positive role of the support of EU funding to date in achieving the goal of sustainable development of fisheries sector,

APPEALING for greater consideration of the needs of the Member States that joined the EU since 2004, and therefore were not able to fully benefit from the EU funds available before that date,

WITHOUT prejudice to the decisions on the overall Multiannual Financial Framework post-2013

THE ABOVE MENTIONED COUNTRIES share the following views with respect to future fisheries funding and call for:

1. Maintaining a strong financial instrument for fisheries sector while differentiating financial support into convergence and non-convergence regions in order to achieve the goal of cohesion and provide support to the fisheries dependent communities facing environmental, market and societal challenges, as well as their territorial and geographical specificities,

2. Including the potential of aquaculture when determining the size of support to the sector, as well as widening the scope of support to the freshwater aquaculture in the new financial framework,
3. Recognition of positive role of freshwater aquaculture, including inter alia preservation of biodiversity, water retention and purification, as well as diversification of farming activity,
4. Distinguishing between marine and inland fisheries, as well as large scale and small scale, due to their different specifics and needs,
5. Providing support and greater management flexibility in the fisheries sector, on the Member States level, for mitigation of: major natural disasters affecting this sector, such as floods or storms, as well as for European level mitigation of influence of fishing eating predators;
6. Maintaining and further strengthening the bottom-up approach in order to fully realize the long term objectives, including coastal as well as inland fisheries dependent communities,
7. Support for research and development aimed at innovation and its deployment, including that aimed at environment protection and/or increased economic viability of fisheries activity, including energy efficiency,
8. Maintaining a re-designed support for fleet modernization, including increased aid intensity, thus allowing for an improved fish products quality and/or energy and resource efficiency, which shall not result in increased pressure on marine resources,
9. Increased aid intensity for the measures where the current level of co-financing has not allowed for their successful and full implementation,
10. Improving the support for the promotion of fish products as healthy and high quality food among consumers,
11. Simplification of delivery mechanism, including more management flexibility on the Member States level, allowing for more efficient use of funding.
