STATEMENTS BY THE COMMISSION

1) "Independently of the adoption of the Ecolabel Regulation, the Commission confirms that it intends to propose a Regulation on eco-labelling of fishery products before the end of this year to be mainly based on criteria for sustainable fishing.

The study foreseen in Article 6(6) of the Ecolabel regulation dealing with additional aspects such as processing, pre-packaging, packaging and transport, which will examine the feasibility of the extension of the scope of the Ecolabel Regulation to food, including the products of fishing and aquaculture, will not influence or prejudice the adoption of this Regulation."
2) In relation to coherence with chemicals legislation

"The Commission will ensure that the implementation of the Ecolabel Regulation will be coherent with the other relevant Community legislation addressing substances, preparations and mixtures."

3) In relation to fees review

"The Commission confirms it intends to review the level of fees for the Ecolabel within 18 months of entry into force of the Regulation, taking into account the cost incurred by Member States in administering the scheme, and propose a revision of the fee levels as appropriate."

STATEMENT FROM THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK

The Netherlands and Denmark consider that the first reading compromise obtained between the Council and the Parliament constitutes a well balanced improvement of the current legislation on the Ecolabel scheme with important improvements on i.a. the wider use of the Ecolabel. Consequently the Netherlands and Denmark support the first reading agreement and appreciate the efforts made by the Czech Presidency in that respect.

However, the Netherlands and Denmark would have liked to see the principle of substitution having a stronger position in the regulation.

Thus, the Netherlands and Denmark regret that the possibility in Article 6(8) for derogations for specific categories of goods containing (i.a.) hazardous substances was widened (at a very late stage in the process) to include “…products which have a significantly higher overall environment performance compared with other goods of the same category”, thus widening even further the derogation and essentially watering down the principle of substitution as also expressed in the same article.
The Netherlands and Denmark interpret Article 6(8) as follows: there must be no doubt of the significantly higher overall environment performance of the product despite the use of the hazardous substance, and the use of the hazardous substance may not damage the credibility of the EU Ecolabel.