

Work Programme of the Spanish Presidency

FISHERIES

In the context of the EU Council, the priorities in fisheries are:

Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

Having concluded the open debate exercise on the Green Paper on the Common Fisheries Policy reform at the end of 2009, it will be incumbent on our Presidency to hold the technical and political debates stemming from the Council.

In the debates expected during our Presidency, the successes and failures of the current CFP will be analyzed together with the future proposal for management and conservation of fishery resources taking into account the integration of environmental and maritime policies in order to reach conclusions setting the groundwork for the new approach that this common policy should have.

These debates will be particularly relevant for Spain since they point towards a definite revision of both the relative stability principle and the TAC and quota based management policy, and also lead to a proposal for substantial changes in the CFP's external aspects.

In this context, the Spanish Presidency expects the Commission to present the Conclusions drawn from the stakeholder public consultation that took place with regard to the Green Paper on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. This is expected to take place at the Fisheries Council scheduled for 19 and 20 of April 2010. The aim of the Presidency is to take stock of the discussion held in order for the Commission to start preparing the proposals which are due for late 2010 or early 2011.

Likewise, and in line with this objective, an exchange of views on a working document concerning reform options is also foreseen. This document will be presented by the Commission at the Fisheries Council scheduled for 28 and 29 June 2010.

Reform of the Common Market Organization in Fishery and Aquaculture Products

Another point of interest for Spain is the plan of the Spanish Presidency to initiate a debate on the reform of the Common Market Organization (CMO) of Fishery and Aquaculture Products.

Given that the revision work on the application of the current CMO has concluded, under the Spanish Presidency it seems opportune to tackle debate on the CMO's reform and its future and, if appropriate, to consider the opening of a debate in this regard at the Fisheries Council scheduled for 19 and 20 April of 2010.

1.1.1. Multi-annual management plans.

The Spanish Presidency will pay special attention to a number of multi-annual management plans (anchovy, horse mackerel, Northern hake, and salmon in the Baltic Sea).

Eco-label regulation for fisheries products.

Based on the commitment made by the Commission on the occasion of the adoption of the eco-label Regulation, the Presidency expects to undertake the debate on the future Commission proposal in this respect.

Deep Sea Species.

Based on the Commission's commitments the Spanish Presidency intends to undertake the discussion on the proposal that the Commission is due to submit in the coming months. The aim of this proposal is to modify the regulatory framework governing access and fishing efforts in these fisheries.

External Fisheries Policy.

In this field, the Presidency intends to conduct the debates leading to the adoption of a number of proposals, among others:

- Catch document programme for bluefin tuna,
- Control and implementing measures for NEAFC,
- Provisions applicable to the CGPM,
- Memorandum of Understanding with Chile concerning swordfish,
- Signing, on behalf of the EC, of the agreement for SPMRFO,
- Conclusion of new protocols with Micronesia, Salomon Islands and Sao Tomé and Príncipe,

Amending technical measures applicable in SEA
