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THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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3059th Council meeting

Agriculture and Fisheries

Brussels, 13-14 December 2010

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Main results of the Council

*Concerning Fisheries, the Council reached a unanimous political agreement on **fishing opportunities for 2011 for certain fish stocks for EU vessels in the waters of the Atlantic, the Channel and the North Sea and also for certain fish stocks in the Black Sea.***

*As regards Agriculture, the Council was briefed on **contractual relations in the milk and milk product sector.** In addition, the **quarterly report on the dairy market** and the report on **developments in the market situation and conditions for phasing out the milk quota system** were presented to ministers.*

*Over lunch, ministers discussed the future of the CAP, in particular how to better target CAP funds to **"active farmers"**.*

*Ministers were also briefed on **agricultural product quality policy.** Finally, the Council held a policy debate on the communication on **the CAP towards 2020.***

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 - Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
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Mr Dacian CIOLOȘ
Ms Maria DAMANAKI

Member
Member

ITEMS DEBATED**FISHERIES****Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for 2011**

The Council reached a unanimous political agreement on fishing opportunities for 2011 for EU vessels in the waters of the Atlantic, the Channel and the North Sea ([16068/10](#)) on the basis of a Presidency compromise, drawn up in agreement with the Commission. The Council will adopt this Regulation, following finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts, at one of its forthcoming meetings.

The compromise was drafted, baring in mind a number of clear guiding principles:

- where long term management plans are in place, no derogations were allowed
- gradual steps are taken to reach maximum sustainable yield for all stocks by 2015

The following table sets out the indicative values of the principal TACs for 2011 compared with those for 2010 and the Commission proposal.

<i>Species Latin name</i>	Species English name	Espèces nom français	ICES fishing zone	COUNCIL TACs 2011	COUNCIL TACs 2010	COUNCIL comparison 2011/2010 %	COMMISSION Proposal for 2011	comparison Council TAC 2010 / Commis. Prop. 2011
ANNEX IA SKAGERRAK, KATTEGAT, ICES zones I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV, EC waters of CECAF, French Guyana waters								
<i>Ammodytidae</i>	Sandeel	Lançon	EU waters of IIa, IIIa and IV (SAN/2A3A4)	242250	177500	36%	245000	38%
<i>Ammodytidae</i>	Sandeel	Lançon	Norwegian waters of IV (SAN/04-N)	Not relevant	0	Not relevant	0	Not relevant
<i>Argentina silus</i>	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	I & II (EU and internat. waters) (ARU/1/2)	103	112	-8%	95	-15%
<i>Argentina silus</i>	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	III & IV (EU and internat. waters) (ARU/3/4)	1.176	1.278	-8%	1.086	-15%
<i>Argentina silus</i>	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	EU and internat. Waters of V, VI, VII (ARU/567)	4.691	5.099	-8%	4.334	-15%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	EU and internat. waters of I, II & XIV (USK/1214EI)	21	21	0%	21	0%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	IIIa, EU waters of IIIb, IIIc and subdivisions 22-32 (USK/3A2232)	24	24	0%	24	0%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	EU waters of IV (USK/04-C)	196	196	0%	196	0%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	EU and internat. waters of V, VI, and VII (USK/567EI)	294	294	0%	294	0%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	Norwegian waters of IV (USK/04-N)	170	170	na	170	na
<i>Caproidae</i>	Boarfish	Sangler	EU and internat. waters of VI, VII and VIII (XXX)	33.000				
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	IIIa (HER/03A)	25.504	28.890	-12%	27.504	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	EU and Norwegian waters of IV north of 53°30' N (HER/4AB)	115.464	93.773	23%	115.464	23%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (HER/04-N)	846	846	0%	846	0%

<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	by-catches in IIIa (HER/03A-BC)	6.659	7.515	-11%	6.659	-11%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	by-catches in IV, VIIId and in EU waters of Iia (HER/2A47-DX)	16.539	13.587	22%	16.539	22%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	IVc, VIIId (HER/4CXB7D)	26.536	22.881	16%	26.536	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	EU and internat. waters of Vb and VIb and VIaN (HER/5B6ANB)	21.755	23.760	-8%	21.755	-8%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIaS, VIIb-c (HER/6AS7BC)	4.471	7.451	-40%	3.726	-50%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIa Clyde (HER/06ACL)	To be established	720		To be established	
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIIa (HER/07A/MM)	5.280	4.800	10%	4.800	0%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIIe-f (HER/7EF)	980	1.000	-2%	850	-15%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIIg, h, j, k (HER/7G-K)	13.200	10.150	30%	13.200	30%
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Anchovy	Anchois	IX, X; EU waters of CEECAF 34.1.1 (ANE/9/3411)	7.600	8.000	-5%	6.800	-15%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Skagerrak (COD/03AN.)	3.711	4.638	-20%	3.711	-20%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Kattegat (COD/03AS)	190	379	-50%	190	-50%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	IV, EU waters of IIa, the part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and Kattegat (COD/2A3AX4)	22.279	27.848	-20%	22.279	-20%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (COD/04-N)	382	382	0%	382	0%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIb; EU & internat. waters of Vb west of 12°00'W and of XII & XIV (COD/561214)	78	80	-3%	68	-15%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIa, EU & internat. waters of Vb east of 12°00'W (COD/5B6A-C)	180	240	-25%	120	-50%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIa (COD/07A)	505	674	-25%	337	-50%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIb-c, VIIe-k, VIII, IX & X; EU waters of CEECAF 34.1.1 (COD/7XAD34)	4.023	4.023	0%	3.420	-15%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIId (COD/07D)	1.564	1.955	-20%	1.564	-20%

<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	Requin taupe commun	EU waters of III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XII (POR/1-14CI)	0	0		0	
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Cardines	EU waters of IIa & IV (LEZ/2AC4-C)	1.845	1.757	5%	1.757	0%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Cardines	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb; intern. Waters of XII & XIV (LEZ/561214)	3.387	3.079	10%	3.079	0%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Cardines	VII (LEZ/07)	17.385	18.300	-5%	15.555	-15%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Cardines	VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIc, VIIIe (LEZ/8ABDE)	2.125	2.125	0%	1.806	-15%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Cardines	VIIIc, IX & X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (LEZ/8C3411)	1.287	1.287	0%	1.094	-15%
<i>Limanda limanda and Platichthys flesus</i>	Dabe and Flounder	dabé et Flet	EU waters of IIa and IV (D/F/2AC4-C)	18.434	18.810	-2%	15.989	-15%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	EU waters of IIa and IV (ANF/2AC4-C)	9.643	11.345	-15%	9.643	-15%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	Norwegian waters of IV (ANF/4AB-N)	1.500	1.540	-3%	1.500	-3%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VI, EU & internat. waters of Vb, int. waters of XII & XIV (ANF/561214)	5.456	5.567	-2%	4.732	-15%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VII (ANF/07)	32.292	32.292	0%	27.448	-15%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VIIIa,b,d,e (ANF/8ABDE)	8.653	9.108	-5%	7.742	-15%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANF/8C3411)	1.571	1.496	5%	1.480	-1%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	IIIa, EU waters of IIIbc-d and 22-32 (HAD/3A/BCD)	2.007	1.844	9%	1.743	-5%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	IV, EU waters of IIa (HAD/2AC4)	26.432	26.965	-2%	25.686	-5%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (HAD/04-N)	707	707	0%	707	0%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	VIb; XII and XIV (EU and internat. waters) (HAD/6B1214)	3.748	4.997	-25%	3.748	-25%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	Vb, VIa (EU and internat. waters) (HAD/5BC6A)	2.005	2.673	-25%	2.005	-25%

<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	VIIb-k, VIII, IX, X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HAD/7X7A34)	13.316	11.579	15%	11.579	0%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	VIIa (HAD/07A)	1.317	1.424	-8%	1.210	-15%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	IIIa (WHG/03A)	1031	258	300%	258	0%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	IV; EU waters of IIa (WHG/2AC4)	13.349	11.194	19%	12.286	10%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII and XIV (WHG/561214)	323	431	-25%	216	-50%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	VIIa (WHG/07A)	118	157	-25%	118	-25%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	VIIb-h, and VIIj-k (WHG/7X7A)	16.568	14.407	15%	14.407	0%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	VIII (WHG/08)	3.175	3.240	-2%	2.754	-15%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	IX, X. EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHG/9/3411)	To be established	588		To be established	
<i>Merlangius merlangus and Pollachius pollachius</i>	Whiting and Pollack	Merlan et Lieu jaune	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (W/P/04-N)	190	190	0%	190	0%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	IIIa; EU waters of IIIb-c and subdivisions 22-32 (HKE/3A/BCD)	1.661	1.661	0%	1.661	0%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	EU waters of IIa and IV (HKE/2AC4-C)	1.935	1.935	0%	1.935	0%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	VI, VII; EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII, XIV (HKE/5671214)	30.900	30.900	0%	30.900	0%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	VIIIa-b, VIII d-e (HKE/8ABDE)	20.609	20.609	0%	20.609	0%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HKE/8C3411)	10.695	9.300	15%	10.695	15%
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	Norwegian waters of II and IV (WHB/4AB-N)	0	2.000	Not relevant	0	Not relevant

<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	EU and international waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIIIa,b,d,e, XII and XIV (WHB/1X14)	10.042	66.337	-85%	10.042	-85%
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	VIIIc, IX and X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/8C3411)	1.030	13.870	-93%	1.030	-93%
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	EU waters of II, IVa, V, VI north of 56°30N and VII west of 12°W (WHB/24A567)	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	pm	
<i>Microstomus kitt & Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Lemon sole and Witch	Limande sole et plie grise	EU waters of IIa and IV (L/W/2AC4-C)	6.391	6.521	-2%	5.543	-15%
<i>Molva dypterigia</i>	Blue ling	Lingue bleue	EU waters and internat. waters of Vb, VI, VII, XIIIb (BLI/5BX12B)	1717	1732	-1%	2026	17%
<i>Molva dypterigia</i>	Blue ling	Lingue bleue	Internat. waters of XIIIb (BLI/XXXX)	815				
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	EU and internat, waters of I, II (LIN/1/2)	36	36	0%	36	0%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	IIIa, EU waters of IIIb-c and subdivisions 22-32 (LIN/03)	92	92	0%	92	0%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	EU waters of IV (LIN/04)	2.428	2.428	0%	2.428	0%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	EC and internat. waters of V (LIN/05)	33	34	-2%	29	-15%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	EU waters and internat. waters of VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV (LIN/6X14)	7.804	7.823	0%	7.804	0%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	Norwegian waters of IV (LIN/04-N)	850	850	0%	850	0%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IIIa; EU waters of IIIb-c and Subdivisions 22-32 (NEP/3A/BCD)	5.170	5.170	0%	4.700	-9%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	EU waters of IIa and IV (NEP/2AC4-C)	23.454	24.688	-5%	22.580	-9%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	Norwegian waters of IV (NEP/4AB-N)	1.200	1.200	0%	1.200	0%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb (NEP/5BC6)	13.681	16.057	-15%	13.681	-15%

<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VII (NEP/07)	21.759	22.432	-3%	18.684	-17%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VIII a, b, d, e (NEP/8ABDE)	3.899	3.899	0%	3.314	-15%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VIIIc (NEP/08C)	91	101	-10%	91	-10%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (NEP/9/3411)	303	337	-10%	303	-10%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	IIIa (PRA/03A)	5.170	5.283	-2%	4.448	-16%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	EU waters of IIa and IV (PRA/2AC4-C)	3.598	4.233	-15%	3.598	-15%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Norwegian waters south of 62°00' N (PRA/04-N)	480	558	-14%	357	-36%
<i>Penaeus spp.</i>	'Penaeus' shrimps	Crevette royale	French Guyana (PEN/FGU)	To be established	4.108		To be established	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	Skagerrak (PLE/03AN)	7.791	9.163	-15%	7.791	-15%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	Kattegat (PLE/03AS)	1.988	2.291	-13%	1.988	-13%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	EU waters of IIa and IV; that part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and Kattegat (PLE/2A3AX4)	68.862	59.657	15%	68.862	15%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb, internat. waters of XII and XIV (PLE/561214)	693	707	-2%	601	-15%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VIIa (PLE/07A)	1.627	1.627	0%	1.627	0%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII b, c (PLE/07BC)	78	80	-2%	68	-15%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII d (PLE/7DE)	4665	4274	9%	4018	-6%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII f, g (PLE/7FG)	410	451	-9%	410	-9%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII h, j, k (PLE/7HJK)	185	218	-15%	185	-15%

<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (PLE/8/3411)	395	403	-2%	343	-15%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb, internat. waters of XII, XIV (POL/561214)	397	405	-2%	344	-15%
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VII (POL/07)	13.495	13.770	-2%	11.705	-15%
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VIII a, b, d, e (POL/8ABDE)	1.482	1.512	-2%	1.285	-15%
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VIIIc (POL/08C)	231	236	-2%	201	-15%
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (POL/9/3411)	282	288	-2%	245	-15%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	IIIa and IV; EU waters of IIa,b,c,d (POK/2A34)	43.842	50.431	-13%	43.842	-13%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb, XII and XIV (POK/561214)	9.682	11.106	-13%	9.682	-13%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (POK/04-N)	880	880	0%	880	0%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	VII, VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (POK/7/3411)	3.343	3.411	-2%	2.899	-15%
<i>Psetta maxima & Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	Turbot and brill	Turbot et barbue	EU waters of IIa and IV (T/B/2AC4-C)	4.642	4.737	-2%	4.127	-13%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of IIa and IV (SRX/2AC4-C)	1.397	1.397	0%	1.397	0%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of IIIa (SRX/03-C)	58	58	0%	58	0%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of VIa-b, VIIa-c and VIIe-k (SRX/67AKXD)	11.379	13.387	-15%	11.379	-15%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of VIIId (SRX/07D)	887	887	0%	887	0%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	EU waters of VIII et IX (SRX/89-C)	4.640	5.459	-15%	4.640	-15%
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	EU waters of IIa and IV; EU and internat. waters Vb and VI (GHL/2A-C46)	170	261	-35%	170	-35%

<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	IIIa and IV; EU waters of IIa, IIIb-c and Subdivisions 22-32 (MAC/2A34)	20.002	22.382	-11%	20.002	-11%
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	VI, VII, VIII a-b, VIII d-e; EU and internat. waters of Vb; Internat. waters of Iia, XII, XIV (MAC/2CX14)	258.684	295.366	-12%	258.684	-12%
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	VIIIc, IX, X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (MAC/8C3411)	29.572	33.875	-13%	29.572	-13%
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	Norwegian waters of IIa and IVa (MAC/xxxx)	11.240			11.240	
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	IIIa; EU waters of IIIb-c and Subdivisions 22-32 (SOL/3A/BCD)	840	700	20%	840	20%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	EU waters of II and IV (SOL/24)	14.050	14.050	0%	13.550	-4%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII, XIV (SOL/561214)	60	61	-2%	52	-15%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIa (SOL/07A)	390	402	-3%	320	-20%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIb-c (SOL/7BC)	44	45	-2%	38	-16%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VII d (SOL/07D)	4.852	4.219	15%	4.156	-1%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIe (SOL/07E)	710	618	15%	710	15%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VII f, g (SOL/7FG)	1241	993	25%	1241	25%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VII h, j, k (SOL/7HJK)	423	498	-15%	423	-15%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIIa, b (SOL/8AB)	4.250	4.829	-12%	4.200	-13%
<i>Solea spp.</i>	Sole	Sole	VIIIc, d, e, IX, X. EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (SOX/8CDE34)	1.072	1.094	-2%	930	-15%
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Sprat	Sprat	IIIa (SPR/03A)	48.100	48.100	0%	48.100	0%
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Sprat	Sprat	EU waters of IIa and IV (SPR/2AC4-C)	149.924	150.840	-1%	132.924	-12%
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Sprat	Sprat	VII d-e (SPR/7DE)	5.421	5.532	-2%	4.702	-12%
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spurdog/ dogfish	Aiguillat/ chien de mer	EU waters of IIIa (DGS/03A-C)	0	0	Not relevant	0	Not relevant
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spurdog / dogfish	Aiguillat/ chien de mer	EU waters of IIa & IV (DGS/2AC4-C)	0	0	Not relevant	0	Not relevant

<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spurdog dogfish	Aiguillat chien de mer	EU and internat. waters of I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII & XIV (DGS/15X14)	0	0	Not relevant	0	Not relevant
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel and associated by-catches	Chinchard et prises accessoires ass.	EU waters of IVb, IVc, VIIId (JAX/47D)	42.955	43.854	-2%	36.786	-16%
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	EU waters of IIa, IVa, VI, VIIa-c, VIIe-k, VIIIa,b,d,e; Vb; EU and internat. waters of XII & XIV (JAX/2A-14)	156.587	157.881	-1%	156.587	-1%
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	VIIIc (JAX/08c)	25.137	25.310	-1%	24.737	-2%
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	IX (JAX/09)	29.585	31.142	-5%	26.471	-15%
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	X: EU waters of CECAF - Azores (JAX/X34PRT)	To be established	3.072		To be established	
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	EU waters of CECAF Madeira Islands (JAX/341PRT)	To be established	1.229		To be established	
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	EU waters of CECAF - Canary Islands (JAX/341SPN)	To be established	1.229		To be established	
<i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>	Norway pout	Tacaud norvégien	IIIa; EU waters of IIa, IV (EC waters) (NOP/2A3A4)	0	75.000	-100%	0	-100%
<i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>	Norway pout	Tacaud norvégien	Norwegian water of IV (NOP/4AB-N)	0	1.000	-100%	0	-100%
		Industrial fish	Norwegian waters of IV (I/F/4AB-N)	800	800	0%	800	na
		Combined quota	EU waters of Vb; VI and VII (R/G/5B67-C)	Not relevant	Not relevant		Not relevant	
		Other species	Norwegian waters IV (OTH/4AB-N)	Not relevant	5.000		5.000	
		Other species	EU waters of IIa, IV and VIa north of 56°30N (OTH/2A46AN)	Not relevant	Not relevant		Not relevant	
ANNEX IB NORTH EAST ATLANTIC AND GREENLAND AND ICES zones I, II, V, XII, XIV and Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1								
<i>Chionoecetes spp.</i>	Crabe	Snow crab	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1 (PCR/N01GRN)	500	500	0%	500	0%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	EU and Internat. waters of I and II (HER/1/2)	64.319	96.543	-33%	64.319	-33%

<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Norwegian waters of I and II (COD/1N2AB)	14.127	20.571	-31%	12.127	-41%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1, Greenland waters of V and XIV (COD/NO1514)	2.500	2.500	0%	2.500	0%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Internat. waters of I and IIb (COD/1/2B)	22.356	22.356	0%	25.975	16%
<i>Gadus morhua and Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Cod and haddock	Cabillaud et églefin	Faroese waters of Vb (C/H/05B-F)	0	500		0	
<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	Atlantic halibut	Flétan	Greenland waters of V, XIV (HAL/514GRN)	1.075	1.075	0%	1.075	0%
<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	Atlantic halibut	Flétan	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1 (HAL/N01GRN)	75	75	0%	75	0%
<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Capelin	Capelan	IIb (CAP/02B)	0	0		0	
<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Capelin	Capelan	Greenland waters of V, XIV (CAP/514GRN)	15400	0	0%	15400	
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	Norwegian waters of I, II (HAD/1N2AB)	1.350	2.050	-34%	1.350	-34%
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	Faroese waters (WHB/2A4AXF)	0	2.700		0	
<i>Molva molva and Molva dypterigia</i>	Ling and Blue ling	Lingue et lingue bleue	Faroese waters of Vb (B/L/05B-F)	0	2.700		0	
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Greenland waters of V and XIV (PRA/514GRN)	7.000	7.000	0%	7.000	0%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1 (PRA/N01GRN)	4.000	4.000	0%	4.000	0%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	Norwegian waters I, II (POK/1N2AB)	2.250	3.000	-25%	2.250	-25%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	International waters of I and II (POK/1/2INT)	0	0		0	
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	Faroese waters of Vb (POK/05B-F)	0	2.425		0	
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Norwegian waters of I and II (GHL/1N2AB)	50	50	0%	50	0%
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	International waters of I and II (GHL/12/INT)	0	0		0	

<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Greenland waters of V and XIV (GHL/514GRN)	7.000	7.500	-7%	7.000	-7%
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1 (GHL/N01GRN)	2.650	2.800	-5%	2.650	-5%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	EU and internat. waters of V ; internat. waters of XII and XIV (RED/51214)	To be established	6992	0%	To be established	0%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	Norwegian waters of I and II (RED/1N2AB)	1.500	1.500	0%	1.500	0%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	Internat. Waters of I and II (RED/1/2INT)	Not relevant	Not relevant		Not relevant	
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	Greenland waters of V, XIV (RED/514GRN)	To be established	8000	na	To be established	na
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	Icelandic waters of Va (RED/05A-IS)	0	0	na	0	na
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	Faroese waters of Vb (RED/05B-F)	0	1.600	na	0	na
	By-catches		Greenland waters of NAFO 0, 1 (XBC/N01GRN)	2.300	2.300	0%	2.300	0%
	Other species		Norwegian waters of I, II (OTH/1N2AB)	350	350	0%	350	na
	Other species		Faroese waters of Vb (OTH/05B-F)	0	760	-100%	0	na
	Flatfish		Faroese waters of Vb (FLX/05B-F)	0	300	-100%	0	
ANNEX IC NORTH WEST ATLANTIC Area of NAFO								
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 2J3KL	0	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 3NO	0	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 3M	5703	3136	82%	5703	82%
<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Witch flounder	Plie grise	NAFO 2J3KL	0	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Witch flounder	Plie grise	NAFO 3NO	0	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	American Plaice	Faux Flétan	NAFO 3M	0	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	American Plaice	Faux Flétan	NAFO 3LNO	0	0	0%	0	0%

<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	Short fin squid	Calmar à nageoires courtes	NAFO sub-zones 3 and 4	34.000	34.000	0%	34.000	0%
<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	Yellowtail flounder	Limande à queue jaune	NAFO 3LNO	0	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Capelin	Capelan	NAFO 3NO	0	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	NAFO 3L	334	1670	-80%	1069	-36%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Nothern prawn	Crevette nordique	NAFO 3M	Not relevant			Not relevant	
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	NAFO 3LMNO	7.466	6.951	7%	7.466	7%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skate	Raie cendrée	NAFO 3LNO	7.556	7.556	0%	7.556	0%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3LN	1094	638	71%	1094	71%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3M	7.813	7.813	0%	7.813	0%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3O	7.000	7.000	0%	7.000	0%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO Subarea 2, divisions 1F and 3K	2.503	2.503	0%	2.503	0%
<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	White hake	Merluche blanche	NAFO 3NO	3.529	3.529	0%	3.529	0%
ANNEX ID HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH - AU AREAS								
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Bluefin tuna	Thon rouge	Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45°W and Mediterranean (BFT/AE045W)	5.756	7.087	-19%	5.756	-19%
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish	Espadon	Atlantic Ocean (north of latitude 5° N)	8.997	8.636	4%	8.997	4%
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish	Espadon	Atlantic Ocean (south of latitude 5° N)	5.318	6.638	-20%	5.318	-20%
<i>Germo alalunga</i>	Northern Albacore	Thon blanc	Atlantic Ocean (north of latitude 5° N)	27.917	27.917	0%	27.917	0%
<i>Germo alalunga</i>	Southern Albacore	Thon blanc	Atlantic Ocean (south of latitude 5° N)	1.915	1.915	0%	1.915	0%
<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Bigeye tuna	Thon obèse	Atlantic Ocean	29.867	31.200	-4%	29.867	-4%
<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	Blue marlin	Makaire bleu	Atlantic Ocean	103	103	0%	103	0%

<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Portbeagle	Requin-taube	EC and internat. waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV					
<i>Tetrapturus alba</i>	White marlin	Makaire blanc	Atlantic Ocean	47	47	0%	47	0%
ANNEX IE ANTARCTIC Area of CCAMLR								
<i>Champocephalus gunnari</i>	Antarctic icefish	Poisson des glaces antarctique	FAO 48.3 Anatarctic ANI/F483	2305	1548	49%	2305	49%
<i>Champocephalus gunnari</i>	Antarctic icefish	Poisson des glaces antarctique	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic ANI/F5852	78	1658	-95%	78	-95%
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Antarctic toothfish	Légines	FAO 48.3 Antarctic TOP/F483	3000	3000	0%	3000	0%
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Antarctic toothfish	Légines	FAO 48.4 Antarctic north (TOP/F484N)	40	75	-47%	40	-47%
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Antarctic toothfish	Légines	FAO 48.4 Antarctic south (TOP/F484)	30			30	
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Antarctic toothfish	Légines	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic TOP/F5852	2550	2550	0%	2250	-12%
<i>Euphausia superba</i>	Krill	Krill	FAO 48 KRI/F48	5.610.000	3 470 000		5.610.000	
<i>Euphausia superba</i>	Krill	Krill	FAO 58.4.1 Antarctic KRI/F5841	440 000	440 000		440 000	
<i>Euphausia superba</i>	Krill	Krill	FAO 58.4.2 Antarctic KRI/F5842	2 645 000	2 645 000		2 645 000	
<i>Lepidonotothen squamifrons</i>	Grey rockcod	Colin austral	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic NOS/F5852	80	80	0%	80	0%
<i>Paralomis spp.</i>	Crab	Crabe	FAO 48.3 Antarctic PAI/F483	1600	1600	0%	1600	0%
<i>Macrourus spp.</i>	Grenadier	Grenadier	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic GRV/F5852	360	360	0%	360	0%
	Other species	Autres espèces	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic OTH/F5852	50	50	0%	50	0%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et raies	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic SRX/F5852	120	120	0%	120	0%
<i>Channichtyx rhinocerus</i>	Unicorn icefish		FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic LIC/F5852				150	

ANNEX IF SOUTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN Area of SEAFO								
<i>Beryx spp.</i>	Alfonsinos	Béryx	SEAFO	200	200	0%	200	0%
<i>Chaceon spp.</i>	Deep-sea Red crab	Gérion ouest-africain	SEAFO Sub Division B1	200	0	Not relevant	200	Not relevant
<i>Chaceon spp.</i>	Deep-sea Red crab	Gérion ouest-africain	SEAFO excluding Sub division B1	200	200	0%	200	0%
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Patagonian Toothfish	Légine australe	SEAFO	230	200	15%	230	15%
<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	Hoplosthète orange	SEAFO Sub Division B1 (ORY/F47NAM)	0	0		0	
<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	Hoplosthète orange	SEAFO, excluding Sub Division B1 (ORY/F47X)	50	50		50	
ANNEX IG SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA - All Areas								
<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Bluefin tuna footnote	Thon rouge	By-catches in all areas (SBF/F41-81)	10	10	0%	10	0%
ANNEX IH WCFPC Area								
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish	Espadon	WCPFC area south of 20° S	3.170	3.170		pm	
ANNEX IJ SPFO Area								
<i>Trachurus murphyi</i>	Jack mackerel	Chinchard du Chili	SPFO (CJM)	To be established	179.000		To be established	

The Commission and the Council recognise that discarding fish is a waste of natural resources and is a serious problem in global and European fisheries. Widespread discarding damages marine ecosystems and the financial viability of fishing businesses and is ethically undesirable.

The Commission and the Council are committed to reducing discards now and under a reformed Common Fisheries Policy. They welcome action by and will work closely with Member States and others to tackle this problem, including trials of alternative management systems, fully documented fisheries or management by effort. The Commission and the Council are keen to see the results of initiatives such as catch quota management in order to have an assessment by STECF on its efficiency to reduce discards and overall mortality of fish.

The Commission, taking note of the continued poor state of stocks of cod concerned by regulation No 1342/2008 and the lack of evidence of a reduction in fishing mortality rates, will undertake a review of all pertinent factors concerning the fisheries catching the relevant cod stocks. The review will include the measures fixed according to the aforementioned Regulation, their implementation and their effects, including discard reduction measures and measures affecting cod management decided by Member States as well as the application of the fishing effort limits. The review will cover scientific and control aspects and will require the submission of relevant data by Member States. The Commission will request the advice of STECF concerning the review and will consult stakeholders through the Regional Advisory Councils. The Commission undertakes to convene a conference to discuss the findings of these consultations.

In addition to the fishing opportunities 2011 for the Black Sea on which the ministers reached a political agreement in this Council session, the fishing opportunities 2011 for the Baltic Sea and the fishing opportunities 2011-2012 for deep sea stocks were already adopted, respectively on 26 October and on 29 November 2010.

According to Article 43(3) of the Treaty, the Council has to adopt measures on a proposal from the Commission on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities.

As the existing provisions in the area of the proposal are applicable until 31 December 2010, with the exception of certain effort limitations which are applicable until 31 January 2011, the regulation will apply from 1 January 2011 on.

Fishing opportunities for 2011 in the Black Sea

Ministers reached a political agreement on a regulation fixing for 2011 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks applicable in the Black Sea ([17003/10](#)) on the basis of a Presidency compromise, drawn up in agreement with the Commission.

The Council will adopt this Regulation, following finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts, through a written procedure.

The main element of the Presidency compromise endorsed by the Commission is a reduction of 10% in the EU total allowable catches (TACs) in the Black Sea for turbot and sprat.

The following table sets out the indicative values of the TACs in the Black Sea for 2011 compared with those for 2010 and the Commission proposal.

<i>Species Latin name</i>	Species English name	Espèces nom français	ICES fishing zone	COUNCIL TACs 2011	COUNCIL TACs 2010	COUNCIL comparison 2011/2010	COMMISSION proposal for 2011	comparison Council TAC 2010 / Commission proposal 2011
<i>Psetta maxima</i>	Turbot	Turbot	Black Sea (TUR/F3742C)	86,4	96	-10%	72	-25%
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Sprat	Sprat	Black Sea (SPR/F3742C)	11 475	12 750	-10%	9 563	-25%

The Council and the Commission agreed that it is appropriate to establish adequate measures such as inspection schemes and benchmarks to address the misreporting and illegal fishing for turbot in the Black Sea. Such measures should be developed by Member States concerned jointly with the Commission in 2011.

In addition, the Council and the Commission agreed that regional cooperation on fishing in the Black Sea should be established to promote sustainable stock management in this area and that they will each take actions in line with their competence.

Finally, the Council invites the Commission to propose the establishment of minimum landing and mesh sizes for the turbot fishery in the Black Sea, while underlining that the TAC levels established in the regulation for 2011 have been set at a level taking into account the continuous application of national provisions existing in Bulgaria and Romania in this regard.

According to Article 43(3) of the Treaty, the Council has to adopt measures on a proposal from the Commission on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities in the Black Sea.

As the existing provisions are applicable until 31 December 2010 the regulation will apply from 1 January 2011.

AGRICULTURE

Contractual relations in the milk and milk products sector

Ministers were briefed on a proposal for a regulation amending regulation No1234/2007¹ as regards contractual relations in the milk and milk products sector ([17582/10](#)).

Most delegations welcomed the Commission proposal highlighting the measure allowing the producers to join together to negotiate and establish contracts with the dairy companies. The importance of the role of inter-branch organisations and of increased transparency were also underscored. However some Member States recalled that the proper functioning of the single market should in any case be guaranteed.

The Council took note of this proposal and mandated its preparatory bodies to conduct an in-depth examination of the proposal. In this context the Council took note of the information provided by the future Hungarian Presidency: the appropriate working party will start the examination in January and an exchange of views is envisaged during the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in March.

This Commission proposal follows the report and recommendations of the High Level Group (HLG) on Milk and the Presidency conclusions on this report, as supported by a large majority of delegations ([14186/10](#)) These conclusions invited the Commission to submit by the end of the year its response to the first three recommendations of the HLG, concerning:

- enhanced contractual relations between milk producers and dairies;
- producers' collective bargaining power; and
- the possible role of inter-branch organisations in the dairy sector,

and to respond rapidly to the HLG recommendation on transparency.

¹ OJ L 229, 16.11.2007, p. 1.

As regards relations between milk producers and dairies, the concentration of supply is often much lower than at processing level. This results in an imbalance in bargaining power between these levels. The proposal provides for optional written contracts to be drawn up in advance for deliveries of raw milk by a farmer to a dairy which would include the key aspects of price, the timing and volume of deliveries, and the duration of the contract. To rebalance bargaining power, it is further proposed to allow farmers to negotiate such contract terms, including the price, collectively, via producer organisations. The proposal provides for a legal basis in agricultural law to this end. In order not to destabilise the existing situation, a size limit is proposed.

Inter-branch organisations cover part or all of the supply chain: farmers, processors, distributors and retailers. They can potentially play useful roles in research, improvement of quality, promotion and spreading of best practice in production and processing methods. It is proposed to apply the rules of existing inter-branch organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector with appropriate adaptations, to the dairy sector. They would contribute to improving knowledge and transparency of production and the market.

In response to the crisis in the dairy sector in 2009, in October of that year the Commission set up an HLG on Milk to discuss mid-term and long-term arrangements for the dairy sector, given that quotas are due to end on 1 April 2015. The HLG published its report mid-June and recommended several measures: those for which the Commission presented this proposal, and others in relation to market instruments, quality and labelling as well as innovation and research. ([11935/10](#) + [11758/10](#)).

Situation report on the dairy market

The Council took note of the Commission's quarterly report on the dairy market ([17244/10](#)), presented by the Commissioner in charge of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Cioloș.

The EU dairy market is in much better health this year than last year. Prices paid to milk producers have recovered from their record low levels in spring 2009: the EU weighted average price has regularly increased (32.5 c/kg for September 2010 vs 27 c/kg mid-2009) and is higher than any monthly average price between 2003 and 2006 (only during the price hike in 2007 was such a price reached). A very recent trend of stagnation should be closely followed.

EU average prices for dairy products continue to be largely above intervention levels. A slightly weaker trend has been observed over recent weeks in EU prices for dairy commodities, with some exceptions. World prices continue to be at historically high levels, without taking account of the price spike of 2007.

EU milk production has been constantly increasing since spring, and cumulative levels for the period January-September 2010 are 0.8% higher than in the same period of 2009. This increased milk production has been converted mainly into value added products (such as yoghurts and cheese) that experienced an increase in production levels in line with good demand, while dairy commodities (butter, skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder) achieved lower production levels. Compared to quota levels, first estimates show that milk deliveries from April to September 2010 are 6% below quota for the EU-27.

Public stocks for butter and skimmed milk powder have decreased: only remain 190 000 t of skimmed milk powder remain - of which 94 000 t are committed to the most deprived persons' scheme in 2011 - and 1 500 t of butter, committed to this scheme as well.

As a reaction to the crisis in the dairy sector, the Commission committed in May 2009 to report every three months on the situation in the dairy market.

Conditions for phasing out the milk quota system

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission on the evolution of the market situation and conditions for phasing out the milk quota system ([17243/10](#)).

The milk sector went through a period of high price volatility from 2007 to 2009. Since then, the market situation has improved and prospects are broadly positive. Overall, the milk sector is gradually heading towards more market orientation.

Phasing out the milk quota system ("soft landing") is already on track in an overwhelming majority of Member States. The main two indicators (quota prices and production level compared to quotas) are well orientated in most of the Member States. Except in 3 Member States (DK, NL and CY) where they remain high, milk quota prices have a very low value: already zero in some Member States, and decreasing in most of the others, being expected to reach zero in 2015. Milk quotas have ceased to work as a production limit in most Member States and market orientation is already the leading principle in a number of them. Under these circumstances, the report concludes that there is no reason to revisit the Health Check decisions with regard to the gradual increase in quotas and the end of the quota regime on 1 April 2015¹.

However, in order to increase awareness and reinforce the responsibility of operators in the dairy chain to better take into account market signals and adapt supply to demand, transparency should be enhanced, as recommended by the HLG on Milk.

On 20 November 2008, the EU agriculture ministers reached a political agreement on the Health Check of the CAP. Conditions were proposed for phasing out the milk quota system by April 2015. A 'soft landing' was ensured by increasing quotas by one percent every year between 2009/10 and 2013/14. For Italy, the 5 percent increase was introduced immediately in 2009/10. In 2009/10 and 2010/11, farmers who exceed their milk quotas by more than 6 percent will have to pay a levy 50 percent higher than the normal penalty.

The regulation No1234/2007 on the "Single Common Market Organisation (CMO)", provides in its article 184 that a first report on conditions for phasing out the milk quota system had to be presented by the Commission before 31 December 2010. A second report is to be presented by 31 December 2012.

¹ During the discussion, some Member States insisted on the need to ensure a soft landing in all Member States.

The quality package

The Council was briefed by the Commission on a "quality package" consisting of:

- a proposal for a regulation on agricultural product quality policy ([17672/10](#)); and
- a proposal amending regulation No1234/2007 "Single CMO" ([17677/10](#)).

Several delegations welcomed the Commission proposals as important for maintaining the diversity of agricultural activities in rural areas by reinforcing the recognition of traditional agricultural products.

The Council took note of the proposals and mandated its preparatory bodies to conduct an in-depth examination of the proposals.

The Council conclusions of 22-23 June 2009 on agricultural product quality retained the following strategic orientations:

- improve communication between farmers, buyers and consumers about agricultural product qualities;
- increase the coherence of EU agricultural product quality policy instruments; and
- reduce the complexity of the system to make it easier for farmers, producers and consumers to use and understand the various schemes and labelling terms.

On this basis, the Commission prepared the "quality package", which consists of a set of proposals designed to put in place a coherent agricultural product quality policy aimed at assisting farmers to better communicate the qualities, characteristics and attributes of agricultural products to consumers.

Agricultural product quality policy forms part of the common agricultural policy (CAP) and is a key element for objectives defined in the Commission communication on the CAP towards 2020 ([16348/10](#) - see next point) such as the diversity of agricultural activities.

The proposals provides for clarification and simplification of the current procedures for the quality schemes already in place. In addition, the Commission proposes a reinforcement of the traditional specialities guaranteed scheme which, together with protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications, constitute the main elements of agricultural product quality policy in the EU

In addition, through the amendment of regulation No 1234/2007, the Commission proposes a simplification of marketing standards and further development of optional quality schemes.

The Commission adopted a Green Paper on Agricultural Product Quality in October 2008 and launched a vast public consultation. The Agriculture and Fisheries Council of December 2008 took note of preliminary views from delegations on the agricultural product quality. As a follow-up, the Czech Presidency hosted a conference on agricultural product quality in Prague on 12-13 March 2009. The outcome of public consultation, as well as the results of the conference, provided the basis for the Commission communication which was adopted on 28 May 2009. In response to this communication, the Czech Presidency organised a debate and Council conclusions were adopted at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 22-23 June 2009 ([10722/09](#)) inviting the Commission to prepare the ground for possible legislative initiatives.

The CAP towards 2020

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission communication *The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future* ([16348/10](#)).

The debate, structured around a Presidency questionnaire ([17459/10](#)), focused on viable food production, which is the first of the three main objectives for the future CAP identified in the Commission communication.

For many delegations, in order to ensure viable food production, the CAP will still need to provide some level of farm income support as well as a safety net of market measures to help farmers cope with crisis situations. Cap payments should also be seen as compensation for the higher standards which EU farmers have to fulfil compared to those applied in third countries. At the same time, the CAP needs to improve competitiveness of the agricultural sector, in particular by promoting innovation, research and training. The value share of the farm sector in the food chain will also need to be improved. Finally, delegations considered compensation for production difficulties in areas with natural constraints necessary to maintain farming activity throughout the EU and to preserve the diversity of agricultural landscapes.

The incoming Hungarian presidency will organise two more policy debates on this communication in January and February 2011. These debates will focus on the two other main objectives for the future CAP identified by the Commission in its communication, namely:

- sustainable management of natural resources and climate action;
- balanced territorial development.

The incoming Hungarian presidency will use the output of these discussions to prepare Council conclusions supported by all delegations for adoption in March 2011.

In order to enrich the debate, the Presidency also held a lunchtime discussion on the concept of "active farmer" used in the Commission communication.

During the initial exchange of views on the Commission communication at the last Agriculture Council, most Member States generally welcomed the document and noted that it provided a good basis for discussion.

The Council has discussed different aspects of the reform over five successive Presidencies the European Parliament (EP) has adopted an own-initiative report on the post-2013 CAP, and its link with the Europe 2020 Strategy. In July, the conference on the public debate concluded that a majority of views expressed concurred that the future CAP should remain a strong common policy structured around its two pillars. In addition, the informal meeting of the Agriculture ministers in La Hulpe on 21 September 2010 confirmed the desirability of a two-pillar structure for the CAP, with sufficient flexibility in both pillars. Discussions had also shown that the reform should include in particular a better balance between income support and the rewarding of public goods provision, and should take better account of the diversity of European agricultures ([15339/10](#))

The Commission communication outlines options and launches the debate with the Council, the Parliament and stakeholders. On the basis of the outcome of the institutional debate, the Commission is expected to present its legislative proposals on the CAP towards 2020 in July 2011.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS**Pig meat sector**

The Council was briefed by the Belgian delegation on the main conclusions of the reflection day on “The pig meat sector towards 2020”; held on 3 December 2010 in Brussels. Experts of the pig meat sector from Member States explored good practices in this area with a view to extending these at EU level with a long-term perspective. In the framework of the current discussion on the future of the CAP, this reflection day brought to light the opportunities and dangers facing the pig meat sector. For many delegations, the creation of a permanent follow-up group on this sector could be a first step. As the future Hungarian presidency considers the pig sector as one of its priorities, this issue could be discussed within the SCA ([17727/10](#)).

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

AGRICULTURE

Labelling of wines

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission regulation amending Commission directive 2007/68 as regards labelling requirements for wines ([14664/10](#)).

The Commission regulation is subject to the so-called regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt them, unless the European Parliament objects.

FISHERIES

Partnership agreement - EU and Micronesia

The Council adopted a decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and on the provisional application of the protocol to the partnership agreement between the European Community and the Federated States of Micronesia on fishing in the Federated States of Micronesia ([15852/10](#)).

The partnership agreement in the fisheries sector between the European Community and the Federated States of Micronesia was concluded in 2006. The protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the partnership agreement expired on 25 February 2010. In order to guarantee a rapid resumption of fishing activities by EU vessels the Protocol should be applied rapidly.

Partnership agreement between EU and Micronesia - Allocation of fishing opportunities

The Council adopted a regulation concerning the allocation of the fishing opportunities under the protocol to the Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Federated States of Micronesia on fishing in the Federated States of Micronesia ([15854/10](#)).

Following the signing of the provisional application of the protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the partnership agreement in the fisheries sector between the European Community and the Federated States of Micronesia, this decision provides the allocation of fishing opportunities between Member States.

Fishing opportunities 2011-2012 - Deep sea stocks

The Council adopted a regulation fixing for 2011 and 2012 the fishing opportunities for EU vessels for fish stocks of certain deep-sea fish species. On 29 November 2010, ministers had reached a unanimous political agreement together with the Commission on this item ([16039/10](#)).

This regulation establishes the 2011 and 2012 Total Allowable Catch (TACs) and quotas for certain stocks of deep water fish such as certain deep sea sharks, black scabbardfish (*Aphanopus carbo*), roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), alfonsinos (*Beryx spp.*) and forkbeards (*Phycis blennoides*). These fisheries will be open on 1 January 2011.

Deep-sea stocks are fish stocks caught in waters beyond the main fishing grounds on continental shelves. These species are slow-growing and long-lived, which makes them particularly vulnerable to fishing activity. Scientific knowledge of the longevity and growth of these species, although still not enabling a full assessment of stock status to be carried out, is slowly improving, making it possible to better target the measures proposed. In this respect, the Commission and the Council have agreed to improve the delivery of data necessary for scientific bodies to advance in the stock assessment of deep-sea species. In this connection, the Commission will launch studies in 2011 to develop more environmentally-friendly and more selective gear.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Remuneration and pensions

The Council adopted a regulation adjusting the remuneration and pensions of officials and other servants of the EU with effect from 1 July 2009 ([17355/10](#)).

TRADE POLICY

Anti-dumping and anti-subsidies measures - Glyphosate - Graphite electrode systems

The Council adopted regulations:

- terminating the anti-dumping proceedings on imports of glyphosate from China ([16718/10](#)); and
- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty ([16414/10](#)) and a definitive countervailing duty ([16408/10](#)) on imports of certain graphite electrode systems from India, following expiry reviews pursuant to regulations 1225/2009 and 597/2009 respectively.

Transparency mechanism - World Trade Organization

The Council adopted a decision establishing the European Union position in the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) General Council regarding a decision on a transparency mechanism for preferential trade arrangements (PTAs) ([16118/10](#)).

The transparency mechanism deals exclusively with procedural matters on how PTAs are notified and factually presented and considered in the WTO and would allow a better follow-up of their impact on the multilateral trading system.

TRANSPORT**Air services agreement with Cape Verde**

The Council authorised the signing of an air services agreement between the EU and the Republic of Cape Verde (*16458/10 + 16459/10*).

The agreement replaces the existing bilateral agreements between individual Member States and that country, bringing their provisions in line with EU law, in particular as regards non-discriminatory access for all EU air carriers to routes between the European Union and Cape Verde, aviation fuel taxation and competition rules.
