



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



9999/04 (Presse 185)

PRESS RELEASE

2592nd Council Meeting

Agriculture and Fisheries

Luxembourg, 21 June 2004

President

Mr Joe WALSH, T.D.

Minister for Agriculture and Food

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Main Results of the Council

Under "B" items (for discussion), the Council reached political agreement today on a Regulation implementing the "western waters" Regulation. This Regulation will provide a legislative framework for the allocation of the average fishing effort of vessels for each Member State concerned in the fishing areas stretching from the Canary Islands and Azores to the north and north west of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The Council also took note of information provided by Commissioner Byrne on the EU/Russia veterinary negotiations and gave its strong support to the Commission in reaching a positive outcome before 30 September 2004.

On WTO and Mercosur, the Council supported the efforts of the Commission in the on-going negotiations and took note of the latest developments in these negotiations.

Ministers also discussed the Commission report on beef labelling and restated their positions as expressed at technical level.

The Council held an extensive public debate on the European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming presented by the Commission.

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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.
 - The documents whose references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site <http://ue.eu.int>.
 - Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the abovementioned Council Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ACP

- Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted by the Community within the ACP-EC Council of Ministers regarding the revision of the terms and conditions of financing for short-term fluctuations in export earnings (Annex II to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou) (6832/04) 22

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PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Ms Sabine LARUELLE

Minister for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, the Liberal Professions and the Self-Employed and Agriculture

Mr Jef TAVERNIER

Flemish Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Development Cooperation

Czech Republic:

Mr Jaroslav PALAS

Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Ms Mariann FISCHER BOEL

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Germany:

Ms Renate KÜNST

Federal Minister for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture

Estonia:

Mr Olavi TAMMEMÄE

Deputy Minister for the Environment

Greece:

Mr Savvas TSITOURIDIS

Minister for Rural Development and Food

Spain:

Ms Elena ESPINOSA MANGANA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr Christian MASSET

Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Dermot AHERN

Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Mr Joe WALSH

Minister for Agriculture and Food

Mr John BROWNE

Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Italy:

Mr Giovanni ALEMANNI

Minister for Agricultural and Forestry Policy

Cyprus:

Mr Kornelios KORNELIOU

Deputy Permanent Representative

Latvia:

Mr Mārtiņš ROZE

Minister for Agriculture

Lithuania:

Mr Jeronimas KRAUJELIS

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister for Small and Medium-sized Businesses, the Liberal Professions and the Self-Employed, Tourism and Housing

Hungary:

Mr Fülöp BENEDEK

Administrative State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development

Malta:

Mr Francis AGIUS

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr Cornelis Pieter VEERMAN

Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Austria:

Mr Josef PRÖLL

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water Management

Poland:

Mr Wojciech OLEJNICZAK

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

Portugal:

Mr Armando SEVINATE PINTO

Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries

Slovenia:

Mr Milan POGAČNIK

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Slovakia:

Mr Marián RADOŠOVSKÝ

State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture

Finland:

Mr Juha KORKEAOJA

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Sweden:

Ms Ann-Christin NYKVIST

Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Ms Margaret BECKETT

Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Commission:

Mr Franz FISCHLER

Member

Ms Sandra KALNIETE

Member

Mr David BYRNE

Member

ITEMS DEBATED**COMMUNITY FISHERIES CONTROL AGENCY**

The Council had a first preliminary exchange of views on the proposal establishing a Community Fisheries Control Agency (9149/04) presented by the Commission on 29 April 2004. In December 2003, the European Council agreed on the urgency of establishing this Agency and decided that the Agency will have its seat in Vigo, Spain.

A feasibility study is still awaited and should be available in autumn 2004. It will determine the optimal organisation for the operational functions and structure of the Agency. Given that the legal basis for this proposal is Article 37, the Opinion of the European Parliament is required and may not be given before early 2005.

The tasks of the Agency will focus on operational coordination of control and enforcement. It will have a budget of around €5m (mainly from the Community budget) and 50 staff.

IMPLEMENTING THE WESTERN WATERS REGULATION

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on the Regulation fixing the maximum annual fishing effort for certain fishing areas and fisheries on the basis of a compromise drawn up by the Presidency, which the Commission endorsed. The text of the Regulation, once finalised by the legal-linguistic experts, will be sent for adoption as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting of the Council.

This Regulation was intended to implement Regulation (EC) No 1954/2003 of 4 November 2003 on the management of the fishing effort relating to certain Community fishing areas and resources ("western waters"). The "framework" Regulation establishes a biologically sensitive area to the south-west of Ireland to replace the former "Irish Box" (which stretched 50 miles around the Irish coast), a reference period (1998-2002) for drawing up the annual average fishing effort by vessels, a 100-mile protection zone for the outermost regions, a kilowatt-day system to calculate the fleet's fishing effort and a minimum size for vessels covered by the Regulation depending on the area (10 metres for biologically sensitive areas, 15 metres for other areas). The Regulation also ended the discriminatory restrictions on access following the full integration of Spain and Portugal in the Common Fisheries Policy. The so-called "western waters" extend from the Canary Islands and the Azores to the north and north-west of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Article 11 of the "western waters" Regulation provided for the Commission to submit to the Council a proposal (7388/04) revising and updating effort ceilings by Member State (9 Member States are listed), group of species (demersal species, scallops, edible crab and spider crab), and fishing area. The fishing effort would be allocated on the basis of kilowatt/days and the activity of a vessel in a particular area is defined as the number of days at sea by trip in the area rounded to the nearest whole number.

Two annexes to the proposal set the annual average fishing effort. Annex I covers the ICES and CECAF fishing areas for vessels equal to or more than 15 m in length overall, and on the other hand Annex II covers the new Biologically Sensitive Area (BSA) for vessels equal to or more than 10 m in length overall.

The main changes made to the Commission proposal at technical and political level in the Council are as follows:

- Addition of two articles to the Regulation taking into account the apparent increase in fishing effort for Spain in Annexes I and II to the Regulation for demersal species in Ices area VII: the method of computation for the fishing effort must remain the same as the one used in assessing the levels of effort under Regulation (EC) No 1954/2003. Moreover, the steaming time through a fishing area where no fishing operation has taken place during the reference period (1998-2002) is taken into account separately from the effective fishing effort for calculation of the average fishing effort in that area.
- In Annex I to the Regulation, for demersal species:
 - For Spain, the level of fishing effort expressed in kilowatt/days in Ices area X (Azores), which was 2.600.000 kw/days, has been removed from the Regulation and should be taken into account under the deep-sea species Regulation (2347/2002). This transfer will require an amendment to Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002. A statement from the Commission is added to the Regulation referring to this change.
 - For Belgium, the level of fishing effort expressed in kilowatt/days has been increased from 7.693.250 kw/days to 8.197.827 kw/days in particular in Ices area VII, following technical adjustments.

- For Ireland, following technical adjustments, the level of fishing effort expressed in kilowatt/days has been reduced from 17.383.542 kw/days to 10.229.052 kw/days in particular in Ices area VII
- In Annex I to the Regulation, for scallops in Ices area VII:
 - For Belgium, following technical adjustments, the level of fishing effort expressed in kilowatt/days has been increased from 326.351 kw/days to 354.066 Kw/days.
 - For Ireland, following technical adjustments, the level of fishing effort expressed in kilowatt/days has been reduced from 634.407 kw/days to 525.012 kw/days.
- In Annex I to the Regulation, for edible crab and spider crab:
 - For Ireland, the level of fishing effort expressed in kilowatt/days has been increased from 397.441 kw/days to 465.000 kw/days in Ices areas V and VI following technical adjustments
- The annual average fishing effort of the United Kingdom has been increased in Annex I and reduced in Annex II in the same proportions (699.926 kw/days) in order to take into account the transfer of fishing effort from the BSA to Ices area VII.

ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY FISHING - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council:

1. WELCOMES the Commission's Communication on promoting more environmentally-friendly fishing methods: the role of technical conservation measures.
2. RECALLS the Dundalk Ministerial and Stakeholder Conference of 11 March 2004 on "Fast-tracking the Development of Environmentally-friendly Fishing Methods".
3. RECOGNISES that making fishing activities more environmentally friendly will contribute to a sustainable fishing industry.
4. BELIEVES that improving research and developing technology in partnership with the fishing industry can contribute to developing ways of fishing that will better meet the challenge of rebuilding stocks and maintaining sustainability.
5. RECOGNISES that technical conservation measures have to be integrated within an overall management approach where environmentally friendly fishing measures are part of a wider conservation regime.
6. RECOGNISES that the development of environmentally friendly fishing methods must be adaptive, recognising and preserving the wide diversity of eco-systems and fisheries in Member States and that this will imply, in order to favour and respond to bottom-up approaches from the fishing industry, a more localised approach to certain aspects of fisheries management, particularly technical conservation measures.
7. CONFIRMS its commitment to dialogue with stakeholders and highlights the key role of Regional Advisory Councils, and RECOGNISES that the active involvement of stakeholders, especially the fishing industry, in the development of environmentally friendly fishing measures, can enhance compliance and effectiveness.
8. UNDERLINES the importance of encouraging fishermen to move towards more environmentally friendly fishing methods, and in that context calls for an evaluation by the Commission, by end 2005, of the potential for the provision of financial and non-financial incentives.

9. CONSIDERS that environmentally friendly fishing methods should be promoted equally throughout the Community. In this context, the existing technical measures for the Atlantic and North Sea should, in 2004-2005, be evaluated with a view to their simplification in accordance with the fundamental requirement of ensuring the effectiveness and enforceability of such measures and considering the need for a localised approach.
10. CONSIDERS that priority in research should be given to:
- extending research to the application of environmentally friendly fishing gear technology;
 - improving the understanding of the structure and dynamics of marine ecosystems to aid the development of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;
 - developing low-impact, species-selective fishing gears and fishing techniques that prevent undesired effects on habitats and on non-target species;
 - the use of closed areas or Marine Protected Areas as a means of protecting sensitive habitats and non-target species
 - developing appropriate environmental impact assessment techniques for new fishing and aquaculture practices
11. CONFIRMS its support for pilot projects to reduce discarding, to be developed as a priority in cooperation between the Commission, Member States, the fishing industry, NGOs and competent scientific bodies, covering a wide range of species, fisheries and areas within which Community vessels operate.
12. Taking into account the above, INVITES the Commission:
- to evaluate, by end 2005, the potential for the provision of financial and non-financial incentives in order to encourage fishermen to move towards more environmentally friendly fishing methods;
 - to submit, as soon as practicable, after consultation with stakeholders including the relevant Regional Advisory Councils, a simplified Proposal for technical conservation measures for the Atlantic and North Sea;

- to give a high priority to schemes promoting and evaluating environmentally-friendly fishing, including, where appropriate, the development and use of more selective gears, compensation for short-term losses for vessels participating in trials of more environmentally-friendly fishing methods, and the training and education of fishermen;
- when introducing significant new proposals on environmentally friendly fishing methods, to carry out, as appropriate and on the basis of available information, an assessment of possible economic and social impacts covering an evaluation of both short and long-term effects and consider temporary remedial measures that may be required;
- to develop a pilot project to address the problem of ghost fishing in Community waters which will include a retrieval system to remove lost gears, gear adjustments that lessen the impact of lost gears and methods to reduce the losses of gears;
- to request ICES¹, STECF², SAC³ and other relevant scientific bodies to broaden the scope of their advice to provide eco-system-based advice for fisheries management;
- to report to the Council and to the European Parliament during 2007 on the implementation and impact of the actions set out in these conclusions."

¹ International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

² Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries

³ Scientific Advisory Committee of the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean

BEEF LABELLING

The Presidency noted that there was broad agreement among the delegations in support of the Commission document (8963/04) and its evaluation of Community legislation regarding beef labelling.

On the basis of today's discussion, the Presidency drew the following conclusions:

- The first point to be made is that there is agreement that beef labelling has made a significant contribution to the consumer's need for knowledge, consequently to consumer confidence and to the restoration of the demand for beef, and that there is no case at present for significant change to the existing system.
- On the specific issues raised in the report, there is a majority of delegations against the introduction of EU-origin labelling at this stage and also against more flexible provisions in relation to minced meat, particularly governing the supply of meat from more than one Member State to minced meat production plants.
- In relation to the extension of the labelling provisions to restaurants and institutional catering, a majority shared the Commission's view that a general extension should not be proceeded with at this time; however, the Commission has confirmed that Member States may adopt national compulsory measures in accordance with the procedures laid down in Directive 1998/354.
- A majority of delegations agree with the Commission on the need to harmonise voluntary labelling specifications and on the need to simplify EU provisions relating to batches of beef at the secondary cutting stage, to trimmings and to non -pre-wrapped products. These are issues which should be considered at Management Committee level.
- There were mixed views on the harmonisation of cattle categories, particularly veal; most delegations believe that the definition of veal is a matter for the Council.

This report has also been presented to the European Parliament. When the Parliament has given its views, further examination by the Council may be necessary. However, that is for a future presidency to decide.

EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING (EAPOFF)

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of its communication (10436/04) to the Council and the European Parliament on the "European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming," as well as the accompanying working document (10436/04 ADD 1) provided by the Commission.

In the subsequent public debate, delegations broadly welcomed the Commission communication as a good basis for concrete in-depth discussions on the European Action Plan. In their preliminary reactions, many delegations expressed particular interest in the following aspects:

- the optimal integration of organic farming into rural development,
- measures to stimulate the demand side, including the use of the EU logo,
- co-existence of organic, conventional and GMO products, including the question of seeds,
- measures to strengthen and coordinate research related to organic farming and
- the review of inspection rules and practices based on a risk-based approach and with due regard to imports from third countries.

This plan contains 21 different actions split into three different sections (organic food market, public policy and organic farming, standards and inspections). The plan is designed to promote environmentally-friendly farming and quality products in order to comply with the cross-compliance criteria in the framework of the new reformed CAP by improving, among other things, information on organic products, enhancing data systems in order to better target supply and demand, strengthening controls, and improving research on organic farming.

After the adoption by the Council of its conclusions on a "Strategy for a European Action Plan for food and farming" (15908/03) at its meeting on 17/19 December 2003, a public hearing was held on 22 January with the different stakeholders on the theme "Towards a European Action Plan". Commissioner Fischler provided information on the outcome of this hearing to the Council on 24 February (6483/04). In 2002 (15619/02), the Commission also presented a working paper to the Council on its analysis of the possibility of such a plan.

DOHA DEVELOPMENT ROUND AND MERCOSUR

At a crucial stage in the WTO Doha Round and Mercosur negotiations, the Council heard an assessment of the situation from Commissioner FISCHLER concerning the agricultural aspects. On that basis, Ministers had a wide-ranging discussion on the most important issues that will guide progress in the coming weeks and months.

On WTO, the Council clearly favoured a framework agreement, by the end of July, and recognised the importance of a successful outcome. However, many Member States are concerned about:

- the need for full parallelism in the field of export competition
- the need for parallelism in the treatment of the three pillars
- due attention to non-trade concerns, including geographical indications
- a suitable formula for market access, including appropriate treatment for sensitive products and the retention of the safeguard clause

There is also the general point that movement by the EU should not go beyond the June 2003 and April 2004 CAP reforms.

In relation to Mercosur, a number of Member States believe that:

- the EU offer is too generous
- the Mercosur offer is inadequate
- the single-pocket principle should be firmly established.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

The Council had a debate on the question of renewable resources on the basis of a joint memorandum (10250/04) presented by the German, Austrian, French and Polish delegations, and invites the Commission to take due account of the concern voiced by delegations. This memorandum was supported by the Czech, Hungarian, Luxembourg and Spanish delegations.

The memorandum deals with renewable resources and biomass energy in the context of the Kyoto Protocol. In particular, the abovementioned delegations call on the Commission to adapt the legal framework to allow for increased support for the production of innovative non-food products.

These delegations' request has been drawn up following an international conference held in Bonn (1-4 June) on renewable resources of energy (biomass biogas and biofuel). On this occasion the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reminded delegations that energy crops (wood, sugar cane, sorghum, rapeseed) were the major source of energy for half of the world's population. This request must also be seen in the context of the Communication on Renewable Energy in the EU adopted by the Commission on 26 May, where the objective was to secure a 12% share of renewable energy in overall EU energy consumption by 2010.

Commissioner Fischler welcomed the initiative of the abovementioned delegations and the memorandum submitted. He underlined that Member States had a key role to play in reaching the thresholds of the share of renewable energy set by the Communication adopted by the Commission. As regards research efforts to attain sustainable sources of renewable energy, he acknowledged that the VIth Joint Community Research Programme had limited financial possibilities compared to the previous one and made a commitment to increase the financial effort in the VIIth Joint Community Research Programme. He also reminded the delegations that his Institution had announced a Community Plan on Biomass and envisaged the possibility of using hemp for energy purposes, noting that it was already possible under the existing legislative framework to grow hemp on set aside land.

EU/RUSSIA VETERINARY NEGOTIATIONS

The Council has noted the current status of the negotiations with the Russian authorities on the part of the Commission and the Member States making up the Potsdam Group, in the context of concluding a veterinary agreement and resolving the outstanding issues concerning the development of uniform certification for trade between the Russian Federation and the EU Member States.

It is quite clear from the discussions that this Council attaches considerable importance to the satisfactory conclusion of these negotiations. It is therefore essential that the Commission maintains its intensive efforts towards finding a solution which will ensure that the interests of both the Russian Federation and the EU are fully respected.

It is also recognised that the Member States, through the Potsdam Group, have an important role to play in the successful outcome of the negotiations, and this should continue to be the case.

The Council is conscious of the deadline set by the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation for a conclusion to the discussions on the implementation of uniform certification, and the Presidency suggests the Council should therefore come back to this issue on the basis of a full report from Coreper.

OTHER BUSINESS– *Dioxin content*

The Danish delegation drew the attention of the Council and the Commission to the precautionary measures taken by the Danish Government concerning Baltic herring following the discovery of dioxin content in excess of Community standards. Denmark introduced a fishing and marketing ban on herring for human consumption caught in the Eastern Baltic from 28 May 2004.

– *Rice*

The Council took note of a request from the Italian delegation, supported by the Spanish, Greek, Portuguese and French delegations, concerning the negotiations for modification of the bound duties for rice that the Commission is leading according to the Council mandate of 26 June 2003.

The Italian delegation, having noted the increasing quantities of Basmati rice imported from Pakistan and India, called on Commissioner Fischler to set the negotiations for modification of the bound duties for rice as a key priority, in order to reach a positive outcome by September 2004.

In its view, the significant lowering of the intervention price as from 1 September 2004 (entry into force of the new CMO) must be accompanied by more stable and secure import rules as regards tariff protection for rice. The current duty on imported rice is calculated as the difference between the ceiling price and the import price. As from 1 September 2004 the new intervention price will be EUR 150,00/tonne and the duty set at zero. The Italian delegation therefore requests that the ceiling price be unbound in order to avoid full tariff liberalisation in the sector. It asks the Commission for information regarding the outcome of the abovementioned negotiations.

Commissioner Fischler acknowledged the need to bring forward the negotiations in order to reach an outcome because of the deadline of 1 September. He noted that different tariff formulas had been suggested to the most interested exporting countries - India, Pakistan, Thailand and the United States on the different categories of rice, bearing also in mind that Basmati rice is in a special category and therefore would require a separate negotiation. Commissioner Fischler indicated that tariffs would be set at appropriate levels for each of these varieties, whilst taking into account the producers' interests. He stressed that the European Commission would continue the negotiations as swiftly as possible and expressed his hope that they would be concluded as soon as possible.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

Agriculture

Structure of Community surveys

Following the political agreement reached on 26 April 2004 (8350/04), the Council adopted a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 on the organisation of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings after enlargement (*PE-CONS 3665/04*). The Regulation incorporates the amendments of the European Parliament.

The Regulation sets the maximum amounts of the Community contribution to be made towards the expenses incurred for the 2005 and 2007 surveys for the ten acceding countries, and also sets the financial framework for these countries for the period 2004-2006 at EUR 43.7 mio. Compared to the Commission proposal, where the financial framework for the period 2007-2009 was set in the proposal at EUR 29.3 mio, the amount for the period 2007-2009 will now be fixed by the budgetary and legislative authority on a proposal from the Commission on the basis of the new financial perspective for the period starting in 2007.

The Member States have to conduct a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in 2005 and 2007.

European Convention on animal transport and protection of animals

The Council adopted a Decision on the signing of the European Convention for the protection of animals during international transport (*9761/04*).

It also adopted a Decision on the Community position concerning pigs to be adopted in the context of the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes. This decision was adopted by qualified majority, with the Spanish delegation abstaining and the Danish and Netherlands delegations voting against (*9762/04*).

Plant protection products*

The Council reached political agreement on a Directive amending Annex VI to Directive 91/414/EEC as regards plant protection products containing micro-organisms (*8991/04 and 9271/04 ADD 1*).

Directive 91/414/EEC provides for the establishment of Uniform Principles pursuant to which the Member States have to carry out the evaluation of plant protection products with a view to their authorisation. Uniform Principles have been laid down for Member States to use in the evaluation and authorisation of chemical plant protection products only. The Commission therefore found it necessary to lay down equivalent principles for Member States to apply in the evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products containing micro-organisms.

After finalisation in all Community languages it should be adopted in the form of a common position as an "A" item at a forthcoming Council meeting.

Development and cooperation

Human rights*

The Council reached political agreement on amending two Regulations laying down the requirements for the implementation of development cooperation (9934/04). The general objective of these Regulations is to contribute to developing and consolidating democracy and the rule of law and to respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It should be noted that the period of validity of those Regulations expires on 31 December 2004. It is therefore necessary to extend that period.

ACP

Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted by the Community within the ACP-EC Council of Ministers regarding the revision of the terms and conditions of financing for short-term fluctuations in export earnings (Annex II to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou) (6832/04)

Trade

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 2003/893/EC on trade in certain steel products between the European Community and Ukraine (9710/04)

Internal market

Customs duties - Ceuta and Melilla

The Council adopted a Regulation suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain fishery products originating in Ceuta and Melilla (9684/04).

Maritime transport

Relations with China – Maritime transport – EU enlargement

The Council adopted a Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate amendments to the EU's maritime transport agreement with China in order to take account of the EU's enlargement on 1 May.

Appointments

Economic and Social Committee

The Council adopted a Decision appointing Mr Giacomino TARICCO as a member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Felice SCALVINI for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 2006 (10177/1/04).

The Council adopted a Decision appointing Mr Edgardo Maria IOZIA as a member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Bruno Di ODOARDO for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 2006 (10178/1/04).

The Council adopted a Decision appointing Mr Thomas JANSON as a member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Uno WESTERLUND for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 2006 (10179/1/04).
