



**DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE  
AN RIONN TALMHAÍOCHTA, BIA AGUS  
MARA**

**SIX-MONTHLY REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EU**

**July to December 2015**

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## PART I

### **Introduction**

This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.

The report outlines progress on EU agriculture and fisheries issues under the Luxembourg Presidency for the period 1 July to 31 December 2015 and a preview of the Netherlands Presidency for the period 1 January to 30 June 2016.

The report also provides an overview, in tabular form, of the draft legislative measures laid before the Oireachtas during the period 1 July to December 2015 on the basis of information notes (Table A).

A total of: 20 Information Notes were submitted by the Department.  
12 proposals have been adopted, of which 9 have been published.

### Useful Websites

EU Legislation printed in the Official Journal: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>

Website search for EU legislation: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

EU Agriculture Information: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm)

EU Fisheries Information: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/index_en.htm)

EU Animal Health and Welfare Information: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/index_en.htm)

EU Animal Health Strategy: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis\\_cahp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis_cahp_en.htm)

CAP Towards 2020 website: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/>

Department's website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

Luxembourg Presidency website: <http://www.eu2015lu.eu/>

Netherlands Presidency website: <http://english.eu2016.nl/>

## **Part II**

### **Overview of the Luxembourg Presidency**

Luxembourg assumed the six-monthly Presidency of the EU on 1 July 2015. It was the last of the trio of Presidencies which included Italy (June to December 2014) and Latvia (January to June 2015). It was the twelfth time Luxembourg has held the Presidency.

The Council of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers met five times during the Luxembourg Presidency - on 13 July, 7 September, 22 October, 14 November and 14 December. The Informal Ministerial Meeting took place in Luxembourg on 15 September. Minister Coveney represented Ireland at all of these meetings.

### **2.1 Market Situation**

The Luxembourg Presidency continued to monitor market developments across the EU, particularly in the dairy and pigmeat markets, taking account of factors such as the effects of the Russian ban on the importation of EU agricultural products, the continued softness of Chinese demand and the increased global production of milk.

In September, at a specially convened extraordinary Council meeting, agreement was reached on a €500m package of measures. The bulk of this aid - some €420M - was ring-fenced for direct, targeted aid for the dairy and pigmeat sectors. Ireland's allocation amounted to €13.7M, which was augmented with a further €13.7 million in national funding. Following consultation with stakeholders this was subsequently distributed in three ways - a flat-rate payment of €1,395 to all dairy farmers, a top-up of €800 to approx. 2,000 young dairy farmers, and a €1 million fund for pig producers. Other key aspects of the support package included funding for promotional measures on third country markets, enhanced rates and longer time periods for Private Storage Aid (PSA) schemes for SMP and butter, and the reintroduction of a PSA scheme for Cheese. In addition, advance payments of 70% under the direct payments scheme and 85% under rural development schemes were provided for. The Commission continued to resist calls to increase dairy intervention prices.

### **2.2 Russian Ban on EU Products**

The Russian ban on EU food imports remained in place throughout 2015, as did the separate ban on the importation of pigs and pigmeat products imposed following the discovery of African Swine Fever (ASF) in wild boar in Lithuania in early 2014. These restrictions have had a significant impact on the EU pigmeat market in particular, with Irish pigmeat prices falling to their lowest levels in four years in 2015. Efforts to resolve the impasse are ongoing, with particular attention from an agriculture perspective focused in the latter part of 2015 on potential progress with the Russian authorities on the ASF-related ban.

### **2.3 CAP Simplification**

Simplification of the CAP also featured strongly during the Luxembourg Presidency. Following on from the adoption of Council conclusions in May 2015, Commissioner Hogan announced a range of measures at the end of 2015, including:

- changes to the direct payment guidelines, in particular with regard to EFAs;
- more flexibility on eligibility conditions for voluntary coupled support for animals;
- greater flexibility on legal persons' eligibility for the Young Farmers' Scheme;
- changes to the IACS system, including preliminary cross checks at application stage;
- reducing the level of on-the-spot checks for 2016 in certain circumstances;

- increasing efficiency of sample selection;
- introduction of management rules for a system of collective claims under Pillar 2, and
- further scope to modify declarations on the use of agricultural parcels for greening.

There were calls from some Member States for the simplification initiative to be extended to a review of the Basic Acts. The Commission focus remains on Implementing and Delegated Acts, although Commissioner Hogan has not ruled out reviewing Basic Acts in the future.

## **2.4 International Trade Developments**

### **WTO**

WTO members concluded the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on 19 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The “Nairobi Package” saw a sizable portion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) fulfilled, in the form of a set of six Ministerial Decisions on agriculture, cotton and on issues related to least-developed countries. The overall outcome is seen as a positive and a balanced one, with a number of commitments, for example on rules of origin and services, that will benefit developing countries in particular. The Package also outlines the future work of the WTO, and acknowledges that many issues may have to be dealt with outside of the established DDA framework. The outcome on agriculture is also considered a balanced one from an EU perspective, with definitive end-dates for the elimination of export subsidies by all WTO members, and enhanced and binding disciplines on the use of export credits, food aid and on the activities of state trading enterprises.

### **TTIP**

Ireland has offensive and defensive interests in these negotiations, with opportunities in the dairy sector in particular, and both opportunities and threats in relation to beef. Eleven rounds of negotiations have taken place, with the latest in Miami from 19-23 October 2015. There were no large differences reported, and significant progress was achieved in core market access aspects. Revised tariff offers were exchanged, with 97% of tariff lines offered at duty elimination and the remainder reserved for later negotiation. This is likely to be the last tariff offer submitted by the EU before the final-stage negotiations. In overall terms, the level of ambition remains very high.

### **Mercosur**

These talks had been in suspension for a number of years, but political developments in late 2015, particularly in Argentina, have generated a new momentum from the Mercosur side to make progress. A number of EU Member States, including Ireland, have continued to raise concerns with the European Commission about the negative impact that an agreement with Mercosur is likely to have on the EU’s agricultural sector, and particularly the beef sector.

### **Vietnam**

In July 2015 the Commission announced a provisional agreement with Vietnam, comprising full dismantling of 99%-plus of tariffs over 7 years for EU and 10 years for Vietnam. Outstanding issues are now being finalised.

### **Japan:**

The 14<sup>th</sup> round of the EU-Japan FTA negotiations took place from 30 November to 4 December 2015 in Tokyo. Good progress was made in a number of areas. Outstanding issues remain in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary issues, sustainability, procurement and some other technical barriers to trade.

## **Singapore**

The negotiations were completed on 17 October 2014, following which a process of legal review commenced. This has now been put on hold pending the outcome of proceedings in the European Court of Justice in relation to whether the Commission has exclusive competence to negotiate the agreement, or shares such competence with the Council/Member States. Ireland submitted comments supporting the Council position in January 2016.

## **2.5 Plant Health, Veterinary and Food Safety Issues**

### **4 Part Package [COMs 260, 262, 265, 267 & 327]**

These legislative proposals relate to animal and plant health, official controls, plant reproductive material and rules governing the management of expenditure (CFF).

#### **Official Controls {COM 2015 (265)}**

The Luxembourg Presidency progressed the proposal at Council until a consensus was agreed on 15 October 2015 in relation to the two main outstanding issues, namely, the role of the official veterinarian at slaughter and processing plants and border control posts, and the financing of official controls. At the initial Trilogue with the European Parliament, it was agreed to break the file into seven blocks over which to negotiate. Agreement was reached on the exclusion of plant reproductive material and pesticide application machinery from the scope of the regulation. A further Trilogue in early December made little further progress.

#### **Plant Health {COM 2013(267)}**

The Luxembourg Presidency held a series of trilogues with the Commission and the Parliament on the new Plant Health Law. In December a draft agreement was provisionally reached and this was formally adopted by COREPER on 18 December 2015.

#### **Animal Health {COM 2013(260)}**

Council and European Parliament reached political agreement on this proposal in 2015. The Regulation underwent further procedural steps leading to publication in the Official Journal.

#### **Organics {COM (180)}**

The Luxembourg Presidency took over this dossier in July 2015. It hosted two trilogues, the latest in December 2015. Substantial progress was made on many issues, but progress on the more political and contentious points (controls, residues, import regime) continues to be difficult to achieve. It will feature prominently on the Netherlands Presidency agenda.

## **2.6 The Food Sector {COM (031&032)}**

This proposal had been parked for evaluation by the Commission following the unanimous rejection by Council of the legal basis for the proposal in July 2014. The Commission decided subsequently that it was appropriate to maintain the proposal. It invited the Council and the EP to re-launch discussions. A revised Council text was eventually developed and the Presidency secured an end-of-year deal on its final proposal at the SCA of 16 December, having cleared it through Council (AgriFish) on 14 December. Under the merged scheme, some €100M per year has been allocated in national envelopes for the distribution of milk among school-children, while €150M has been allocated for fruit/vegetables.

## **2.7 Rural Development Programme**

A wide range of new schemes under Ireland's Rural Development Programme were progressed in the second half of 2015, including the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment

Scheme (GLAS), Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS II), Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) and the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP). An amendment to the RDP covering, inter alia, a new tillage investment support measure, a new Burren scheme and changes to GLAS specifications, was formally submitted to the European Commission on 31 December 2015.

## **2.8 Forestry**

The Luxembourg Presidency held a number of meetings of the Council Working Party on Forestry (CWPF) during its six month term. Issues discussed included:

- Preparation for the 7th Ministerial Conference and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of Forest Europe, which took place in October 2015,
- Preparation of the EU's input into the development of a strategic plan for the future activities of the United Nations Forum on Forests;
- Consideration and implementation of the Commission's EU Forest Strategy, and
- FLEGT and EUTR Implementation and Review.

## **2.9 Fisheries**

Negotiations on the proposal that provides autonomous tariff quotas (ATQs) for some fisheries products were concluded by the Luxembourg Presidency in November. Ireland abstained on the basis that the final agreement could encourage product substitution, trade dumping and the introduction of inferior products to the EU. Ireland was also of the view that the agreement could not be viewed in isolation from the EEA Financial mechanism which saw considerable gains for Norway. This Regulation will apply from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

The Luxembourg Presidency continued to advance the Deep Sea proposal, which seeks to establish specific conditions for fishing for deep sea stocks in the North East Atlantic; however progress on reaching a compromise between the Institutions has been slow. Discussions will continue under the Netherlands Presidency. While Ireland does not have a targeted deep sea fishery there are some concerns regarding unintended consequences for demersal fisheries of importance, e.g. nephrops.

Work continued on the Baltic Sea Multiannual Plan throughout November and December with the Presidency holding trilogues with the European Parliament and analysing the latest Parliament suggestions and subsequent Commission compromise suggestions at the weekly Working Party on Internal and External fisheries meetings. Again Ireland does not have a direct interest but any outcome on this file could act as a precedent for North Western Waters and in that context this is of ongoing importance.

The proposal on the recast of the Regulation on fisheries data collection was presented and advanced at Fisheries Working Party meetings in September and November, leading to circulation of the "Bible" in December. Ireland supports the strengthening of existing arrangements for data collection as the collection of reliable fisheries data is of critical importance to effectively and sustainably manage fish stocks, and inform management decisions.

A Commission Delegated Regulation which allows for the phased introduction of the landing obligation for demersal fisheries in North Western Waters from 1 January 2016 was published in the EU Journal on 23 December 2015. This regulation was based on the Joint Recommendations agreed by all Member States of the North Western Waters Group (UK,

France, Spain, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands) under the chairmanship of Ireland in June 2015, and examined and prepared by the Commission and Member States concerned throughout the autumn.

The 2016 fishing opportunities were agreed at the December Fisheries Council. The Minister secured whitefish quotas amounting to a value of €131m, an increase of €10m on the 2015 figure. The rolling out of the new discards ban for a number of Irish stocks from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 added to the complexities of this year's negotiations but following intensive discussions additional quota to cover the increased landings was secured for Irish fishermen. The original Commission proposals would have resulted in significant losses to our fleet. The Luxembourg Presidency further advanced conservation measures to support the protection of Seabass and these measures were also endorsed at the December Council. These conservation measures, for the endangered seabass stock, are important for the Irish seabass angling tourism business.

### **Part III**

#### **Preview of the Netherlands Presidency**

The Netherlands assumed the EU Presidency on 1 January 2016. It is the first of the Trio of Presidencies which will include Slovakia (1 July to 31 December 2016) and Malta (1 Jan to 30 June 2017). This is the twelfth time that the Netherlands has held the EU Presidency. In terms of its overall priorities, its focus will be on maintaining a Union that focuses on the essentials, creates innovative growth and jobs, and connects with society.

In the agriculture area, the Netherlands has set out the following priorities:

- Ongoing work on the simplification of the CAP, and particularly in relation to greening - further proposals from the Commission on both of these areas are expected in the next few months.
- The future of the CAP post-2020 - the Presidency will begin consideration of the future CAP, for example in relation to its support for innovation and sustainability, with a discussion at the Informal Council in May. The importance of climate-smart agriculture and the reduction of food waste will also be a recurring theme.
- Ongoing monitoring of market developments - the Presidency will keep a close eye on market developments, especially on dairy and pigmeat markets, and discuss at Council if necessary. The first progress report from the Agricultural Markets Task Force will be discussed by the Council in June.
- A better balance between plant breeders' rights and patent rights - the Presidency will try to address what it feels is the current imbalance in this area, which is impeding open access to genetic sources, which in turn is important for continued effective plant breeding activity.
- Sustainable plant protection - the Presidency wants to progress the work of the recently established Expert Group, and intends to discuss initial recommendations at Council.

- The tackling of antimicrobial resistance - this is an important issue for the Presidency, which will host a conference of Agriculture and Health Ministers on the issue in Amsterdam from 9-10 February.
- The achievement of greater sustainability as envisaged in the reformed CFP - the focus will be on the conclusion of agreements on multiannual plans for sustainable fish stock management and expanding the landing obligation to prevent food waste. The Presidency also wants to make progress in the areas of Blue Growth and food security.
- More coherent and effective approach to EU forest policy - the focus here will be on efforts to tackle the trade in illegally harvested timber and to halt deforestation.
- Legislative files - the Presidency aims for progress in the trilogues on organic farming, for a political agreement in relation to veterinary and phytosanitary controls, and for progress on the proposals in relation to veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed.

Other Council configurations - the Presidency also intends to improve the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives. It will organise a conference on the ongoing Fitness Check in June, and will also organise a conference on combating wildlife crime in early March. The outcomes will be presented at the Environment Council in June.

### **SCA and Council Meetings**

Twelve SCA meetings and six Council Meetings have been scheduled, including the Informal Agriculture Council which will take place in the National Maritime Museum (Scheepvaartmuseum), Amsterdam from 30 to 31 May.

**TABLE A**

<b>Commission Proposal Number</b>	<b>Proposal/Measure</b>	<b>Date Reviewed and/or Submitted/ Decision of the Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Update</b>
<a href="#">COM(2015)380</a>	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 on a regime under Article 2 of Protocol 10 to the Act of Accession as regards goods covered by quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs.	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 24/08/2015	28/07/2015 Adopted by the Commission Discussions will continue throughout the Netherlands Presidency.
<a href="#">COM(2015)410</a>	Proposal for a Council Decision on the possible relocation of the ICCO headquarter from London to Abidjan.	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 23/09/2015	Formal Adoption By Council (Environment) 18/09/2015
<a href="#">COM(2015)446</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)446Add1</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish and fishery products and amending the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part.	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 01/10/2015	15/09/2015 Adopted by the Commission Discussions will continue throughout the Netherlands Presidency.
<a href="#">COM(2015)448</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)448Add1</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signature, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products, processed agricultural	Forwarded to Oireachtas 2/10/15	15/09/2015 Adopted by the Commission Discussions will continue throughout the Netherlands Presidency.

	products, fish and fishery products and amending the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part.		
<a href="#">COM(2015)460</a>	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the introduction of emergency autonomous trade measures for the Republic of Tunisia.	Forwarded to Oireachtas 1/10/15	17/09/2015 Adopted by the Commission. Discussions will continue throughout the Netherlands Presidency.
<a href="#">COM(2015)620</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)620Add1</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) No 1387/2013 suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products.		Formal adoption by Council Agriculture Food and Marine 14/12/2015
<a href="#">COM(2015)347</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)347Add1</a>	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and the provisional application of the Protocol initialled on 20 March 2015 setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other.	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 05/08/15	Formal adoption by Council 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 Foreign Affairs Council  Published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2015 – L 305/1
<a href="#">COM(2015)413</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)413Add1</a>	Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea.	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 24/09/2015	Formal Adoption by Council 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 Defence Council  Published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 – L302/1

			<a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2072&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2072&amp;from=EN</a>
<a href="#">COM(2015)465</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION concerning the allocation of fishing opportunities under the Implementation Protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia.	Forwarded to Oireachtas 21/10/15	Formal Adoption by Council 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 Competitiveness Council  Published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 12 December 2015 – L328/44  <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2313&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2313&amp;from=EN</a>
<a href="#">COM(2015)466</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)466Add1</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto.	Forwarded to Oireachtas 21/10/15	Formal adoption by Council 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 Competitiveness Council  Published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 12 December 2015 – L328/1  <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015D2312&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015D2312&amp;from=EN</a>

<u>COM(2015)467</u> <u>COM(2015)467</u>	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto.	Forwarded to Oireachtas 21/10/15	Draft Council Decision (DOC 13015/15) has been forwarded by Council to European Parliament for consent.
<u>COM(2015)471</u> <u>COM(2015)471Add1</u>	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signature, on behalf of the European Union, and on the provisional application of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years.	Forwarded to Oireachtas 30/10/15	Formal adoption by Council 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 Economic and Financial Affairs Council  Published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2015 – L315/1  <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015D2191&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015D2191&amp;from=EN</a>

<p><u>COM(2015)474</u> <u>COM(2015)474Add1</u></p>	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION on the allocation of the fishing opportunities under the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years.</p>	<p>Forwarded to Oireachtas 30/10/15</p>	<p>Formal Adoption by Council the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Economic and Financial Affairs Council</p> <p>Published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 – L315/72</p> <p><a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2192&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2192&amp;from=EN</a></p>
<p><u>COM(2015)477</u> <u>COM(2015)477Add1</u></p>	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years.</p>	<p>Forwarded to Oireachtas 30/10/15</p>	<p>Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contributions published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 – L315/3</p> <p><a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22015A1201(01)&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22015A1201(01)&amp;from=EN</a></p>

<p><u>COM(2015)487</u> <u>COM(2015)487other</u> <u>docs</u></p>	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 2015/104 as regards certain fishing opportunities.</p>	<p>Forwarded to Oireachtas 3/11/15</p>	<p>Formal adoption by Council 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 Environment Council</p> <p>Published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 – L287/1</p> <p><a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R1961&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R1961&amp;from=EN</a></p>
<p><u>COM (2015) 559</u> <u>COM (2015) 559 A 1</u> <u>COM (2015) 559 2-8</u></p>	<p>Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters.</p>		<p>Council Regulation (EU) 2016/72 of the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 was published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - L22/1</p> <p><a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:022:FULL&amp;from=EN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:022:FULL&amp;from=EN</a></p>
<p><u>COM (2015) 579</u> <u>COM (2015) 579add1</u></p>	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks in the Black Sea.</p>		<p>Council Regulation (EU) 2016/73 of the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 was published in the Official Journal of the EU on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 - L16/1</p> <p><a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:016:FULL&amp;from=EN">http://eur-</a></p>

			<a href="http://lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0073&amp;from=EN">lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0073&amp;from=EN</a>
<a href="#">COM(2015)636</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)636Add1</a> <a href="#">COM(2015)636 Rev1</a>	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008.		Discussions on this proposal are ongoing between Council, Commission and the European Parliament.
<a href="#">COM(2015)669</a>	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005 establishing a Community Fisheries Control Agency (Text with EEA relevance).		Discussions on this proposal are ongoing between Council, Commission and the European Parliament.
COM (2014) 690	Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the Council of Members of the International Olive Council concerning the accession of new Members.	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 28/11/2014	Formal adoption at Council 23/11/2015. Education Council
<a href="#">COM(2015)217</a>	Council decision on the position on Decision No 1/2015 to be taken on behalf of the European Union by the Joint Veterinary Committee set up by the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products regarding the amendment of Appendices 1,	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 20/07/2015	Formal adoption by Council 30/11/2015 Competitiveness Council

	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 of Annex 11 to the Agreement		
<a href="#">COM(2015)294</a>	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL concerning the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy (recast)		Discussions will continue throughout the Netherlands Presidency
<a href="#">COM(2015)344</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the period 2016 to 2018	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 05/08/2015	Formal adoption by Council 07/12/2015 Employment Council
<a href="#">COM(2015)346</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Protocol initialled on 20 March 2015 setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 05/08/2015	Discussions will continue throughout the Netherlands Presidency
<a href="#">COM(2015)347</a>	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and the provisional application of the Protocol initialled on 20 March 2015 setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand	Forwarded to the Oireachtas 05/08/2015	Formal adoption by Council 16/11/2015