

STANDING COMMITTEE - STATEMENT

Iceland would like to make the following statement regarding the recently adopted EU Regulation on certain measures in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks. Furthermore, Iceland would like to draw attention to certain statements made to the media by representatives of the Commission on this occasion.

Reference is made to the previous statement by Iceland during the meeting of the EEA Joint Committee on 30 April 2012.

The EU has recently adopted a regulation that provides for a legal basis for it to apply trade sanctions vis-à-vis countries that would be identified as allowing unsustainable fishing from stocks of common interest, in which the EU has legitimate interest.

Through the EEA Agreement, the EEA EFTA States are part of the EU's Single Market. All principles of the Single Market are mirrored in the EEA Agreement and thus apply mutually between the EEA EFTA States and the EU Member States, including prohibition of all quantitative restrictions on exports and imports and all technical barriers to trade.

Iceland notes that any possible trade measures must respect in full international obligations. In particular, attention is drawn to Protocol 9 of the EEA Agreement which prohibits any measures imposed between EEA contracting parties beyond refusing landings by fishing vessels of fish from a fish stock of common interest over the management of which there is serious disagreement.

In this context, Iceland notes with concern the statement by Commissioner Damanaki, during the Agriculture and Fisheries Council press conference on 25 September, that the EU would continue its alliance with Norway regarding the implementation of trade instruments.

TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE EEA AGREEMENT

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