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Speaking notes - Bluefin Tuna catch documentation programme

Check Against Delivery
Seul le texte prononcé fait foi
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

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Mr President, Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the Rapporteur Mr Romeva i Rueda for his work on this Report. I am pleased to see the strong support of the Fisheries Committee on this important proposal. The implementation of the ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme is indeed a key measure to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

The European Union needs to fully implement the measures contained in this programme in the framework of its international obligations under the ICCAT Convention. .

I am delighted that the Report in particular supports all aspects linked to the practical implementation of the catch documentation, which must accompany bluefin tuna products from catch to the trade channel. Inspired by the current practices in other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Customs Regulations, this catch documentation scheme can only be efficient if applied to all bluefin tuna products, including processed and farmed products. This will ensure the control of traceability of bluefin tuna fishery products landed, farmed, domestically traded, imported, or exported from the European Union.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Commission agrees with nearly all amendments proposed, resulting from trialogue between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

I would once again like to thank Mr Romeva i Rueda for the Report and the Fisheries Committee for the time spent on this important issue. This Report is a significant contribution to a truly efficient traceability system for bluefin tuna and effective fight against IUU activities.

Thank you.