

14 January 2020

UKTF (2020) 3 – Commission to EU 27

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**Subject:** Internal EU27 preparatory discussions on the future relationship: "Fisheries"

**Origin:** European Commission, Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom

**Remarks:** These slides are for presentational and information purposes only and were presented to the Council Working Party (Article 50) on 14 January 2020. The contents are without prejudice to discussions on the future relationship.

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# Internal preparatory discussions on future relationship

## Fisheries

**AD HOC WORKING PARTY ON ARTICLE 50** (*Seminar mode*)

**14/01/2020**

# **General introduction**

***If UK withdraws with agreement on 31 January 2020:***

***Transition period of 11 months for:***

- 1. adoption of negotiating directives;**
- 2. conduct of negotiations;**
- 3. signature/conclusion and entry into force of future agreement by 1 January 2021**

**=> *Complex and politically sensitive negotiations***

**=> *Possibility of a ,cliff edge' as of 1 January 2021***

# Purpose of the seminar series

## ***- Respect established EU principles and objectives:***

- 1. European Council (Art. 50) guidelines on the framework for the future EU-UK relationship, 23 March 2018;**
- 2. Revised Political Declaration agreed with the UK government on 17 October 2019, setting out the framework for the future relationship between the EU and the UK.**

## ***- Preparing the negotiating directives***

## ***- Take into account Member States' views***

## ***- Commission will present the recommendation after UK withdrawal***

***→ no surprises***

***→ allow for swift adoption***

# **Overview - Fisheries**

***I. General considerations***

***II. General approach***

***III. Implications***

***IV. Elements for consideration***

***V. Conclusions***

# **I. General considerations**

- **UK becomes an independent coastal state**
- **Management of EU-UK shared fish stocks: joint management responsibility under international law**
- **Market access to be defined under the FTA**

## **II. General approach (1)**

### **European Council Guidelines of 23 March 2018**

„8(i). trade in goods, with the aim of covering all sectors and seeking to maintain zero tariffs and no quantitative restrictions with appropriate accompanying rules of origin.

In the overall context of the FTA, existing reciprocal access to fishing waters and resources should be maintained;”

## II. General approach (2)

### Declaration regarding the Withdrawal Agreement and the Political Declaration of 25 November 2018

„On the basis of its successive guidelines of 29 April 2017, 15 December 2017 and 23 March 2018, the European Council will demonstrate particular vigilance as regards safeguarding the rights and interests of citizens, the necessity to maintain ambitious level playing field conditions and to protect fishing enterprises and coastal communities.

...

As recalled in the Withdrawal Agreement, a fisheries agreement is a matter of priority, and should build on, inter alia, existing reciprocal access and quota shares. Such an agreement should be negotiated well before the end of the transition period.”

## **II. General approach (3)**

### **Political Declaration (§§71-75)**

73. Within the context of the overall economic partnership the Parties should establish a new fisheries agreement on, inter alia, access to waters and quota shares.

74. The Parties will use their best endeavours to conclude and ratify their new fisheries agreement by 1 July 2020 in order for it to be in place in time to be used for determining fishing opportunities for the first year after the transition period.

# **III. Implications**

**Challenge ahead is unprecedented in scale: +/- 100 TACs on shared stocks**

- **Need for a solid agreement providing a stable framework and details on shared principles and objectives for fisheries management**

# **IV. The mandate: elements to consider**

## **Objectives and principles**

- sustainability and conservation
- socio-economic

## **Terms for reaching objectives, incl.**

- continued reciprocal access
- stable quota shares
- consultation mechanism
- science-based approach
- management mechanism
- remedial measures

## V. Conclusions

Unprecedented scale and scope requires a stable framework for cooperation and clearly defined shared principles and objectives for fisheries management.

As set out in the European Council Guidelines and established in the Political Declaration, negotiations on fisheries will take place

- within the context of the overall economic partnership,
- including a direct link with negotiations on trade in goods under the ambitious free trade agreement, and
- with best endeavours to conclude and ratify by 1 July 2020.