

## Atlantic tuna conservation measures to become EU law

The European Council has agreed with the European Parliament on how Atlantic tuna conservation measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) are to be incorporated into European Union legislation.

The agreed Regulation lays down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of ICCAT and not only covers all ICCAT recommendations since 2008, with the exception of the multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean which is subject to a separate transposition process, but also take account of developments in EU legislation, for instance in the fields of controls and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU).

“Fisheries continues to be a high priority for the Maltese presidency. With this agreement we make sure that important decisions on highly migratory species in international fora are fully part of EU law,” pointed out Roderick Galdes, Maltese parliamentary secretary for agriculture, fisheries, and animal rights.

The agreement still needs to be approved by the Council's Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper).

After formal endorsement by the Council, the new legislation will be submitted to the European Parliament for a vote at first reading and to the Council for final adoption, which should enable the new regulation to enter into force by the end of 2017.

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