

Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)

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The Council held a policy debate on a proposed regulation aimed at establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It requested that the permanent representatives committee oversee further work on the regulation, taking account of the remarks made by delegations.

The debate focused on three questions:

- the scope of the regulation, and in particular whether it should apply to Community vessels, which are already subject to a comprehensive control regime, or only to third country vessels;
- the administrative burden that a proposed import certification procedure would entail, and possible alternative methods or measures to prevent imports of illegal, unreported and unregulated fish products;
- the suitability of proposed sanctions, and concerns that, for example, the proposed harmonisation could encroach upon Member States' legal prerogatives.