Application of the precautionary principle and multiannual arrangements for setting TACs

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The Council welcomes the Commission's initiative in presenting to the Council and the European Parliament a Communication on the application of the precautionary principle and multi-annual arrangements in the fisheries sector. The Council approves the general line as set out in the Commission's Communication and considers that risk assessment must be based on the best available scientific advice, which should be continuously improved. The Council takes the view that application of the precautionary principle is an essential element within the Common Fisheries Policy in ensuring sustainability of fish stocks and hence of fisheries themselves and is a necessary part of the integration of environmental considerations into the Common Fisheries Policy.