

Statement by Iceland at the EEA Joint Committee

30 April 2012

Iceland would like to make the following statement regarding the Commission proposal for a Regulation on certain measures in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks

Iceland has followed work on the EU side in preparation of the above measures and has noted with grave concern ambitions in some quarters to apply or even extend the scope of the regulation in a way that would put the EU in breach of its international obligations, in particular the EEA Agreement.

Of particular concern is the recent draft resolution adopted by the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament to this effect. Such provisions, if adopted and applied, would bring the EU in breach of its international obligations.

Through the EEA Agreement the EEA EFTA States are part of EU's Single Market. All principles of the Single Market are mirrored in the EEA Agreement and thus apply mutually between the EEA EFTA States and the EU Member States, including prohibition of all quantitative restrictions on exports and imports and all technical barriers to trade.

Iceland would like to underline that it is imperative that all measures of this kind, applied by the EU, respect fully the EU's international obligations. In particular attention is drawn to Protocol 9 of the EEA Agreement which prohibits any such measures as described above beyond refusing landings by fishing vessels of fish from a fish stock of common interest over the management of which there is serious disagreement.