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THE TWENTY NINTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE PABSEC
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs
Committee**

REPORT*

“State and prospects of fisheries in the BSEC member-states”

Rapporteur: Mr. David Saganelidze, (Georgia)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee held in Giresun on 13-14 September 2006 it was proposed to take up subject “State and perspectives of the fishery in the Black Sea countries” for the Twenty Eighth Meeting.
2. Fishery and fishing industry itself in the Black Sea has a vast potential. Fishing and aquaculture are two of the most important uses of the sea. They promote the social and economic well-being of the Black Sea fishing zones providing a major contribution to a global food security. Moreover the fishery in the region is a basic source of food for majority of local population and significant revenue of the economy.
3. Taking into consideration a fact that the Black Sea region is facing new challenges of the 21st century in various contexts fishery potential should be mobilized in complex in the member states. Fishing sector in the Black Sea region confronts such topical problems, as poaching, over-fishing, which led to smaller stocks, smaller landings and smaller incomes.
4. Increased competition due to the globalization of the market in fish products represents is an additional challenge. Greater ability to compete depends on the capacity of the industry to adjust in order to respond to the constraints imposed both by the resources and market demand. Undoubtedly activities in this field must be regulated through international cooperation to allow for the continuous renewal of stocks and the protection of marine ecosystems.
5. At the 17th Plenary Session in Baku the PABSEC adopted Report and Recommendation on 49/2001 on “Black Sea environmental protection: new challenges”, in which Assembly calls to “take appropriate actions for the protection and management of living resources”. In the Recommendation “54/2001 on “Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development” adopted at the 18th Plenary Session the Assembly calls to “introduce legal instruments in compliance with international agreements concerning fisheries health and to promote improvement of marketing of fishery products”.
6. Contributions have been received from the national delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Greece, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. Report also reflects documentations of the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations.

II. REGIONAL OVERVIEW AND BSEC MEMBER STATES PROFILE

a) Fishing areas of the region

7. The Black Sea region mainly comprises two fishing areas – marine areas with Black Sea itself and other seas of the region; inland fishing areas with largest rivers in the region. Besides, fishing areas include coastal zones of the member states, which have outlet to other seas beyond the region, high seas, lakes and storage ponds. Additionally, some member states carry out distant (expeditionary) water fisheries in the waters of the World Ocean. Presently

two BSEC member states - Russia and Ukraine are active players in distant water fisheries. Until 1993 Romania carried out fishing activity in the Atlantic Ocean, but due to reduction of the fishing production distant fishing activity under Romanian jurisdiction was ceased.

8. In the **Black Sea** twenty six species of fishes have traditionally been commercially harvested, including valuable sturgeon, mackerel (bonito) and turbot. The larger and most valuable species (including sturgeons, river herring, and pelagic migratory species) rapidly became over-fished. The Black Sea Environmental Program (BSEP) established in 1993 carries out its activities in accordance with Strategic Action Plan, which determines: the concept of sustainable development, close cooperation among the Black Sea coastal states in adopting interim arrangements which facilitate the rehabilitation and protection of the Black Sea ecosystem and the sustainable management of its resources.
9. In the **Mediterranean Sea** there are local concentrations of small pelagic fishes and most such stocks, except the anchovy, are only moderately exploited. Large pelagic species (eg. swordfish, tuna) are heavily exploited. Fisheries in the Mediterranean involve demersals, large pelagics and small pelagics (notably anchovy). With the exception of a few wide-shelf areas shelf and slope habitats of exploitable demersal populations within the Mediterranean are narrow and generally close to shore, although there are some valuable deeper water demersal resources (royal red shrimp, large hake, red coral). Greece and Turkey play significant role in the fishing activities of the Mediterranean Sea.
10. Biological resources in the **Azov Sea** form a common resource for Russia and Ukraine on the basis of agreement signed between two countries in 1993. Anchovy is the principal species caught forming approximately 80 percent of the catch in the Azov Sea. The Azov Sea regions an important industrial region therefore presently issue of high level pollution of the sea is very crucial.
11. **Caspian Sea** is an important fishing resource for Azerbaijan and Russia. Instead of the fact that for Russia Caspian Sea gives only about 7 % of the catches within country's maritime sector the Caspian bio-resources significantly contribute to sturgeon trade and caviar production both in two countries. Activity on the protection of the Caspian fish resources is realized in frames of the Commission on the Bio-resources of the Caspian Sea established in 1992 by the Trans-Caspian states.
12. Aegean Sea, Marmara Sea and Adriatic Sea, large rivers - Volga, Danube, Dnieper, Dniester and Don, as well as inland zones, are significant fishing areas of the Black Sea region.
13. **Volga** disposes of 70 species of fish, 40 of which having commercial value (Caspian roach, herring, pike and sturgeon). The Volga Delta is the largest inland river delta in Europe and has significantly grown in the last years, due to the changes in the level of the Caspian Sea. The river has long suffered from unregulated industrial and agricultural activities in its basin. In

February 2006 UNESCO launched a project to enhance the environmental awareness of the Volga River, its wetlands and biodiversity.

14. In 1991 **Danube** and its Romanian part of the Danube Delta became part of the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites and, together with 812 properties forming part of the cultural and natural heritage which the World Heritage Committee considers as having outstanding universal value.
15. In 1998, under UNESCO Program of Man and the Biosphere the 626,403 hectares of Danube Delta were established as Biosphere Reserve shared by Romania and Ukraine. In Ukraine, the Danube branch of Black Sea State Reserve was established in 1973. In 1981 it was reorganized into Natural Reserve "Danube Fluxes", and in 1998 it was extended into Danube Biosphere Reserve. The Delta has 45 freshwater fish species, but the fishing has declined dramatically in the last years. In 1998 was established the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, with the task to implement the Danube River Protection Convention signed in 1994, among others by Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. The Convention has as main objectives to ensure that the surface water and the ground water within the Danube River Basin are managed and used sustainable and equitably.
16. Although in the **Dnieper, Dniester** and **Don** there is no significant fishing activity, the concern for the preservation of the biosphere and other relevant issues in these rivers exist.

b) Regional cooperation and BSEC member-states

17. The **Summit Declaration** of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (1992) calls the member states to "take appropriate steps, including by promoting joint projects, for the protection of the environment of the Black Sea, and the conservation, exploitation and development of its bio-productive potential".
18. In perspective international legal regulation of the fishery in the Black Sea will be implemented on the base of the relevant Convention for **Fisheries and Conservation of Living Resources of the Black Sea**, which is in the process of elaboration. Currently all the issues related to the international cooperation in the field of fishery in the region are considered in the frames of the Convention on Protection of Black Sea against Pollution. With this view the Advisory Group on Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources (AG FOMLR) was established under the Black Sea Commission of the Convention on Protection of Black Sea against Pollution.
19. In the framework of the strategy offered to the BSEC Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry is emphasized a necessity to realize the following initiatives:
 - a) establishing small-sized farms specialized in fisheries and aquaculture taking into account also the potential in the eight seas which the BSEC region is endowed;

- b) exchanging experience and expertise, including training facilities in the development of fisheries and aquaculture covering also cultivation of specific breeds in fisheries.
20. Besides, regional cooperation is carried out in the framework of the implementation of **the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** signed in 1973. According to the CITES, four BSEC member states – Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine, being as the Trans-Danube countries, concluded an agreement concerning regional strategy on conservation and rational management of the sturgeon populations in north-western part of the Black Sea and course of Danube River. Moreover, two Trans-Caspian states – Azerbaijan and Russia, became parties to this Convention in the context of the protection of Caspian aquatic bio-resources.
21. Overview of the fishery in the BSEC member states indicates an impressive experience at the national level concerning legislation in this field, management of the fishing resources and fishing industry as a whole.
22. In *Albania* the recently finalized First National Plan for the fisheries sector covers both capture fisheries and aquaculture, with all active fish industry segments engaged in restoring productive capacity. In composing the strategies and management, development policies take into account the actual and potential contributions not only of marine fishery but also inland fishery and aquaculture. The identified objectives are to:
- provide for rational exploitation of fishery resource through responsible fishing;
 - provide preservation and conservation measures based on biological criteria for the marine ecosystem and inland waters;
 - develop aquaculture in marine and inland waters;
 - support sustainable development of capture fishery and aquaculture while improving the socio-economic conditions for producers;
 - satisfy consumer demands by ensuring that the market is supplied with appropriate fish products, and that they are fit for human consumption.
23. With World Bank support, the government of Albania has negotiated a Fishery Development Project, with a budget of US\$ 6.66 million, to support the development of activities in the fishery sector, including promotion of Fishery Associations, infrastructure development, fishery research management and improved aquaculture. In particular, this project foresees the establishment and strengthening of non-profit fishery management organizations, that will assume responsibility for harbors and rehabilitated fishery centers management and implementing regulations developed collaboratively by the government and the associations in the fisheries industry sector. The associations will also assume some of the responsibility for ensuring that legislation is respected.

24. In *Armenia* fishery is regulated by the law "On the animal life", complex programs and annual measures on rehabilitation, protection, reproduction and use of the ecosystem of Sevan Lake. In the context of sustainable management of the resources Armenia applies (since 2001) the following inter-provisional programs funded by the government: "Replenishment of the fish stocks" and "Accounting of the fish and crawfish stocks". On 14 September 2006 Armenian government adopted concept named "Application of new technology on the artificial reproduction with the view of restoring endemic types of the fish populations in Sevan Lake".
25. In *Azerbaijan* particular attention is paid to the problems of preservation and rational usage of Caspian Sea biological resources. The Caspian and Kura region due to its geographical peculiarities and positive thermal conditions provides favorable conditions for valuable fish species, such as sturgeon, salmon, carp, perch etc. The fishery facilities of this region in the near past played one of the leading roles in the Caspian fishery and had significant impact on the development of economic potential of Azerbaijan. In 1992 the Commission on Bio-Resources of the Caspian Sea was established by Trans-Caspian states. The Commission is dealing with the issues related to the management of fishing resources in the Caspian Sea, regulates state of fish stocks, determines annual quotas for fish catches and also involved to the aspects of international cooperation in the sphere of sustainable use, preservation and reproduction of fish resources in the Caspian Sea. The main body involved to these issues is the Department on reproduction and protection of water bio-resources of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.
26. The main normative document in Azerbaijan regulating terms and volumes of allowed fish catch is "Rules of fishery of the Azerbaijan Republic". It determines both fishable sizes and allowed fishing gear. In 1998 the Law "On the fishery" was adopted, which put legal grounds for organization and management of the fishery, reproduction, protection and use of fish resources. The protection of fish reserves in Azerbaijan is carried out by special bodies set up in 2001 by the Ministries of ecology and natural resources, and by Water police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic. It is necessary to note, that for two months (April - May) in a year in the period of sturgeon spawning course the existing legislation of Azerbaijan imposes full prohibition of fishing in the Kura River.
27. In *Bulgaria* fisheries comprise three main sectors: a) the coastal fishing in the Black Sea, which is providing a few pelagic species primarily for local and wider domestic consumption; b) the inland fisheries in rivers, lakes, lagoons and reservoirs, as well as fish farming or aquaculture, which is producing carp, rainbow trout and mussels; c) the high-seas fishery, which supplied about three-quarters of the total output during the three decades before the demise of the centrally planned economic system.

28. Having 378 km coastline on the Black Sea Bulgaria gives particular importance to this sector, which is the traditional marine fish resource. A large proportion of the catch consists of sprat, by-catches of horse mackerel, herring and other numerous species. Revival of freshwater pisci-culture started in 1995, when production increased by 200 tones. Fish farming, particularly trout farming in mountain lakes, played a positive role in maintaining freshwater fish catch levels. A relatively new activity, mussel farming in the Black Sea area led to the production of 30-40 tones, most of it exported. Total potential is estimated to be around 500 tones per year.
29. The Black Sea coastline in *Georgia* is more than 300 km and marine fishing is mostly carried out within the 12-mile zone. Georgia has many rivers (25 075) - the majority of which are short - which make up the river basin of the Black Sea (annual inflow 42.5 km³) and Caspian Sea (14.4 km³). There are some 860 natural lakes with a total area of 170 km² and some 43 reservoirs for generating hydro-electric power and for irrigation with a total volume of 3.2 km³. Renewable groundwater is estimated at 17.23 km³ /year. The inland waters for potential fish farming are: rivers, lakes, reservoirs, pond area, hatching pond area, fry pond area, incubation shop capacity and trout farm capacity. The fish species that are used mainly for processing are: Black Sea anchovy, Black Sea scad, bonito, striped mullet and whiting. There is a small amount of Atlantic sturgeon, Kolkhida sturgeon, beluga, Black Sea salmon etc. Fish species found in the inland waters include: wild carp, bighead carp, catfish, white fish, lake trout and rainbow trout.
30. Because of the country's physical geography, fishing has always been an important economic activity in *Greece*. Generally activities in the fishing sector are carried out in line with the policy of the European Union in this field, including also financial support of the sector in the country. This financing has been allocated mainly through the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), the most recently created EU Structural Fund, and covers the whole of Greece's fisheries sector, from fleet modernization to port facilities, and from aquaculture to the processing and marketing of fish products. The priorities of the FIFG and its areas of operation were established in partnership between the European Commission and the Greek authorities in an operational program for fisheries, integrated into the EU support framework establishing all Structural Fund measures for Greece.
31. The fishing industry in Greece is characterized by a coastal fleet comprising a large number of small vessels, an expanding aquaculture sector producing sea bass and sea bream. Due to the natural environment and the climate, national and EU programs on technological improvement the development of marine aquaculture sector has been remarkable during last decades.
32. In *Moldova* freshwater production comes from natural and artificial water bodies comprising capture fishery on natural water bodies, recreation fisheries, including organized fisheries in natural ponds and licensed fishing in fish ponds, aquaculture on 27 000 ha, both industrial and individual in

ponds leased from municipal bodies. In 2002 the water area was 22 000 ha with organized fishing on 14 700 ha, of which the major areas were Dubosari reservoir on the Dniester river (6500 ha) and lower Dniester (3600 ha). The catches are mostly bream, crucian carp, roach and common carp, together with herbivorous fishes.

33. In *Romania* fishing is carried out on a total area of approximately 843.000 ha, consisting of: 500.000 ha still waters (natural lakes and ponds, accumulations and polders, 66.000 km running waters (mountain, hill and plain rivers), 1.075 km of the Danube river, 25.000 sq km marine waters in the Exclusive Economic Area of the Black Sea. The marine fishing production is represented mostly by sprat representing around 80 % of the catch and sold as salted sprat. A very important fishing area in the country is the marine area within the Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation, but with such fishing restrictions, as prohibition of trawler-ships etc. Commercial inland fishing is carried out in the natural basins which are part of the national public domain: the Danube and its Delta, Prut River, the Razim-Sinoie lakes and dams. The main caught species are the Danube shad, sturgeons, roach and perch. Romanian aquaculture is dominated by extensive rearing of common carp and Chinese carp (75%); the trout culture is practiced in an intensive system (18%). The total surface is about 100.000 ha out of which 84.000 ha for fish farms and 15.500 ha for nurseries.
34. The National Agency for Fishing and Aquaculture (NAFA) of Romania is a national public institution responsible for fishing and aquaculture. NAFA has the following functions: a) to work out of the strategies for fishing, aquaculture, processing and fish product market according to the Government's economic policies; b) to manage authority of structural policies in the field of fishing and aquaculture; c) to develop the specific legal framework; d) to control and work out of the inspection activities. The National Strategic Plan for Romania prepared on the basis of the Regulation of the European Commission on the European Fisheries Fund. This Plan covers the 2007-2013 programming period. Grounded on the analysis of the social, economic and environmental situation conducted on the basis of available statistical data, the National Strategic Plan lays down the priorities and directions of fishery in conjunction with the Community priorities. The National Strategic Plan represents the foundations for the implementation of the Fishery Operational Programme during 2007-2013. The support for fishery under the EFF in Romania is referred to the national level in cooperation with the regional and local organizations at the stage of development of strategy and assumptions for individual measures.
35. In *Russia* basic fishery regions are Coastal Territory (Primorsky Krai), Kamchatka, Sakhalin, Murmansk and Astrakhan regions. Ground of raw sources consists of water bio-resources in inland waters, including rivers, lakes, storage ponds, territorial seas, 200-miles economic zone, continental shelf of the Russian Federation, 200-mile zones of the foreign countries (by

treaties and agreements) and open waters of the World Ocean. Russian fisheries have three major sub-sectors: marine fisheries inland fisheries and aquaculture. Marine fisheries are active in the 12 seas surrounding Russia and the Caspian, and outside of Russia's exclusive economic zones (EEZ). Main capacities of the fish production manufacture both food and technical is provided by fleet (fishing and processing). Practically trade regions beyond 12-miles economic zones of the country, including open waters of the World Ocean and zones of foreign countries, account for 80 % of fish catches and sea products.

36. By the Federal Law "On ratification of the provisions of UN Convention on maritime law from 10 December 1982 related to the conservation of trans-border fish stocks and migratory species and their management" Russia has undertaken obligation for cautious use of water bio-resources and definition of generally permissible catch (GPC). Additionally a number of federal laws have been adopted determining legal status and public administration mode in the field of protection, exploitation and reproduction of bio-resources. These are Law on "Internal sea waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone of the Russian Federation", Law "On exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation", Law "On the continental shelf of the Russian Federation".
37. In *Serbia* the administrative and legal frame of fisheries consists of Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment Protection and Secretariat for Agriculture, Water-Power Management and Forestry. These two administrative bodies implement and survey the activities in fisheries regulated by fisheries legislation. According to the legislation, fishing waters are divided in fisheries districts, which are leased for utilization by contest each five years to fisheries enterprises or angling organizations under legally determined conditions. The administration deals with fisheries district managers, who prepare mid-term and short-term fisheries management plans that must assess of resource, esteemed fisheries pressure and regime of fishing in concordance with annual fish production.
38. The Strategy of Inland Fisheries Resources Management in Serbia, which is in process, in perspective should resolve main problems and future development of the fisheries in the country, including organizational, operational, management and socio-economic issues.
39. Fishery has contributed significantly to *Turkey's* GNP, industrial growth and exports for many years. Exports of agricultural and fishery commodities were valued at \$ 4,2 billion during last ten years and accounted for 15.72 % of Turkey's total export earnings. Saltwater and fresh water resources have made Turkey an important supplier of fishery products of various types. With the development of the processing industry, Turkey could successfully expand her product range in accordance with customer needs.
40. Legislation framework in the fisheries field of Turkey is defined by a number of laws. First Fisheries Law (N1380) was adopted in 1970. Recently in 2004 two important documents have been adopted - Implementation Regulation

on Wholesale and Retail Fish Markets and Implementing Regulation on Aquaculture. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) is the main state organization responsible for fisheries administration, regulation, protection, promotion and technical assistance through four General Directorates. The main duties of MARA on fisheries are:

- to perform and to assign the duties specified in the legislation;
- to determine and implement the major fisheries policies, including aquaculture;
- to assist the services, such as the provision, supply and distribution of the fisheries (including aquaculture) credits and other inputs that fish farmers and fishermen use;
- to establish and operate the quality control systems and organizations required to ensure and regulate that fish and other fishery products are captured, processed, stored, marketed and exploited in accordance with the international quality standards
- to prepare and implement extension and training systems, programs and projects for farmers and fishermen;
- to collaborate with the private agencies, universities, research institutions and international organizations to increase the productivity, conservation of natural stocks and to protect them from biotic hazards.

41. *In Ukraine* marine fishery is divided into expeditionary trade in World Ocean and fishery in Black and Azov Seas. Presently in the World Ocean trade under the Ukrainian flag is carried out by 15 huge and middle tonnage vessels. Their annual fish catch in open waters of the World Ocean and exclusive economic zones of foreign states is about 200-350 thousand tones. Trade objects are mass fish species such as sardines and horse mackerel. In the Black Sea and Azov Sea basin 80 Ukrainian trawlers and several vessels are involved in trade and their annual catch is between 50 and 90 thousand tones. In 2000-2004 annual fish catch over was than 100 tones and Ukraine obtained it from 12 species – sprats, khamsa, sardelle, pike perch, bullhead, horse mackerel, flounder, mussel etc. Inland fishery is formed in the rivers, lakes, reservoirs and estuaries. Annual catch is about 30-40 thousands tones and it include roach, freshwater bream, crucian carp etc.

42. Ukrainian legislation determines basic requirements providing for sustainable management of water resources. These are preservation of the specific and population diversity, inadmissibility of environmental deterioration, violation of migration ways and reproduction conditions, preservation of habitat's integrity, observation of the scientifically grounded limits on the use of water living resources with the view of providing their reproduction.

III. INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF FISHERY

a) International Fisheries Instruments

43. The process of forming international legal instruments in the field of the fishery started in 1976, when the first major international conference on aquaculture was held in Kyoto organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Conference adopted the “**Kyoto Declaration on Aquaculture**”. In February 2000, representatives of 66 countries and more than 200 governmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the conference on “Aquaculture in the Third Millennium” in Bangkok.
44. Participants of the Bangkok conference discussed priorities and strategies for the development of aquaculture for the next two decades, in the light of the future economic, social and environmental issues and advances in aquaculture technologies. Based on these deliberations, the **Bangkok Declaration and Strategy for Aquaculture Development Beyond 2000** was adopted. In Declaration participants encouraged states, the private sector and other concerned stakeholders to incorporate in their strategies for aquaculture development the identified key strategy elements.
45. The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) and a global agenda for Action in support of Sustainable Development made a significant contribution to the issue of protection, rational use and development of the living resources in the oceans and seas. Within this Agenda new approaches for marine and coastal area management and development were proposed at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels. These are integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones, marine environmental protection, sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources under national jurisdiction, addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change, strengthening international cooperation and coordination and sustainable development of small islands.
46. The **Cancun Declaration** adopted by the International Conference on Responsible Fishing held on 6-8 May 2002 in Mexico fixed the following key elements: i) the need to improve fishing practices and fisheries management with the view to avoid over-exploitation of fisheries resources and loss of biodiversity; ii) the need for fishing to continue and develop within a comprehensive and balanced system under the concept of “responsible fishing”.
47. According to the Cancun Declaration the concept of “responsible fishing” encompasses the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources in harmony with the environment; the use of capture and aquaculture practices, which are not harmful to ecosystems, resources or their quality; the incorporation of added value to such products through transformation processes meeting the required quality standards; the conduct of commercial practices so as to provide consumers access to good quality products.

48. In 1995 the FAO Conference adopted the **Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**. The Code stresses that countries and all those involved in fisheries and aquaculture should work together to conserve and manage fish resources and their habitats. The Code also stipulates that all people involved in fisheries should strive to maintain or restore fish stocks to levels capable of producing reasonable amounts of catch now and in the future.

b) Experience of the European Union

49. Fishing and aquaculture are important economic activities in the European Union. While the fishing sector's contribution to the gross national product of Member States is generally less than 1 %, its impact is highly significant as a source of employment in different areas. With a production of over 7 million tonnes of fish, in 2003, from fisheries and aquaculture, the EU became the world's second largest fishing power after China.

50. The first common measures in the fishing sector date from 1970. They set rules for access to fishing grounds, markets and structures. It was agreed that EU fishermen should have equal access to Member States waters. Additional measures for creating a common market in fisheries products were also adopted, as well as a structural policy was set up to coordinate the modernization of fishing vessels and on-shore installations.

51. The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is the European Union's instrument for the management of fisheries and aquaculture. It was created to manage a common resource and to meet the obligation set in the original Treaties of the European Community, which states on the necessity of a common policy in this area.

52. The CFP shall ensure exploitation of living aquatic resources that provides sustainable economic, environmental and social conditions. For this purpose, the Community shall apply the precautionary approach in taking measures designed to protect and conserve living aquatic resources, to provide for their sustainable exploitation and to minimize the impact of fishing activities on marine eco-systems. It shall aim at a progressive implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management contributing to efficient fishing activities within an economically viable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture industry and providing a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities and taking into account the interests of consumers.

53. Common measures are agreed in the following main areas:

a) **Conservation and limitation of the environmental impact of fishing** - to protect fish resources by regulating the amount of fish taken from the sea, by allowing young fish to reproduce, and by ensuring that measures are respected.

- b) **Structures and fleet management** - to help the fishing and aquaculture industries adapt their equipment and organizations to the constraints imposed by scarce resources and the market; measures aimed at creating a balance between fishing effort and available fish resources are also in place.
 - c) **Markets** - to maintain a common organization of the market in fish products and to match supply and demand for the benefit of both producers and consumers.
 - d) **Relations with the outside world** - to set up fisheries partnerships agreements and to negotiate at the international level within regional and international fisheries organizations for common conservation measures in deep-sea fisheries.
54. The EU's structural policy helps the fishing sector adapt to today's needs. Funding is available from the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) for projects in all branches of fishing and aquaculture and for measures to identify and promote new market outlets. Funding is available for modernization of the fishing fleets as well as for getting rid of excess fishing capacity. The FIFG covered the period 2000-2006 and was replaced by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) covering the period 2007-2013.
55. The main measures co-financed by the FIFG are the following:
- 1) Adjustment of fishing effort and temporary cessation of fishing activities
 - 2) Modernization of the fishing fleet
 - 3) Small-scale coastal fishing
 - 4) Socio-economic measures
 - 5) Support of aquaculture, processing, marketing and port facilities
 - 6) Collective measures taken by the industry.
56. As regards fleet management, the 2002 CFP reform introduced a simpler system for limiting the fishing capacity of the EU fleet in order to reach a better match with available resources has been adopted. It replaced the former system of Multi-annual Guidance Programs (MAGP) which had proved to be ineffective at tackling the overcapacity of the EU fleet. The new system gives more responsibility to the Member States to achieve a better balance between the fishing capacity of their fleets and the available resources.
57. The **common organization of the market** is the objective to create a common market inside the EU and to match production to demand for the benefit of both producers and consumers. These original objectives have been complemented by the creation of the European single market and the gradual opening up of world trade.
58. The common organization has four components:
- common marketing standards for fresh products on quality, grades, packaging and labeling of both EU and imported fisheries products;
 - producer's organizations (POs), which are voluntary associations of fishermen set up to help stabilize markets. Their role is protect fishermen from sudden changes in market demand;

- a price support system which sets minimum prices below which fish products cannot be sold. Financial support is available to POs if they have to take fish and shellfish off the market, store them for later use or process them;
 - rules for trade with non-EU countries.
59. At the bilateral and multilateral levels, fisheries agreements became necessary when distant-fishing vessels from the EU lost access to their traditional grounds following the extension of fisheries zones. Fishing rights have been negotiated with many non-EU countries in return for various forms of compensation whose nature depends on the interests of the third country concerned.
 60. In the context of the 2002 reform, the Community initiated a move from access agreements to “partnership agreements” which contribute to responsible fishing in the mutual interest of the Parties concerned. The agreements targeted here are those which involve the payment of a financial compensation in return of access to identified fishing possibilities for EU vessels in the waters under the jurisdiction of a third coastal state.
 61. In the context of the 2002 CFP reform it was decided to strengthen the control area by setting up an EU Fisheries Control Agency (established in 2005). The Agency should strengthen the uniformity and effectiveness of enforcement by pooling EU and national means of fisheries control and monitoring resources and coordinating enforcement activities. This operational coordination helps tackle the shortcomings in enforcement resulting from the disparities in the means and priorities of the control systems in the Member States. Recently the Agency adopted its first work program for year 2007. In 2007 the Agency gives priority to the implementation of the recovery and management of cod stocks, protection of the bluefin tuna, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, reduction of destructive fishing practices and discards.
 62. On 7 June 2006, the European Commission adopted the *Green Paper Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas*, which has as aim to initiate a debate on a future EU Maritime Policy that treats the oceans and the seas in a holistic way. It also seeks to stimulate growth and jobs under the Lisbon Agenda in a sustainable manner that ensures the protection of the marine environment.
 63. The document presents the current situation and proposes an exchange of ideas by raising questions as to what are the benefits of a new, integrated and wide ranging EU maritime policy. The Green Paper makes suggestions on a number of issues and presents the interconnections and interdependence between them, including fisheries, aquaculture and marine research. Another key objective of the document is to contribute to the economic strength of the maritime sectors and to further their competitiveness.

64. The consultation process on this document will end on 30 June 2007, afterwards the Commission will prepare a Communication to the Council and the Parliament about the results of the consultation and will propose the next steps to be followed.
65. Communication of the European Commission "Black Sea synergy - a new regional cooperation initiative" (adopted on 11 April 2007) stipulates that "majority of fishing stocks in the Black Sea region are trans-boundary and a number of these are in bad state and action at regional level is therefore needed to help them to recover. The EU would seek to promote sustainable development through fisheries management, research, data collection and stock assessment in the Black Sea region. New ways to ensure sustainable and responsible use of fisheries resources in the region should be explored. The possibilities offered by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, which includes the Black Sea in its mandate, should be better used."
66. This communication reflects that "Black Sea Synergy provides an opportunity for dialogue on the emerging holistic maritime policy of the Union which aims to maximize sustainable growth and job creation in sea related sectors and coastal regions. This would include building a network of clusters of maritime cross-sectoral cooperation among services, industries and scientific institutions and also improving cooperation and integration on the surveillance of the sea, with a view to safety of shipping and environmental protection".

IV. CONCLUSIONS

67. Fish resources are a natural, renewable and mobile resource and they are integral part of common heritage in the Black Sea region. This heritage should be preserved and developed in the context of sustainable development. The fishing sector in the Black Sea region has a number of problems to be resolved in near perspective.
68. It is clear that the growing demand for fish resources in the region led to the overexploitation of stocks, which creates biological, social, economic and food-linked risks and problems which have not yet been settled. Poaching is another and probably first challenge in the region and attitude to this problem must be elaborated in complex order.
69. As world practice shows effectiveness of the fishing sector particular depends on regulation mechanisms in the management and reproduction of the water bio-resources, including establishment of the modern enterprises on fish catch and processing. Despite the fact that in all BSEC member states legal regulations have already been formed still there is a necessity to improve it in order to avoid negative tendencies in the fishing sector.
70. Environmental impact is an important aspect in the fishery and implementation of the main international legal documents in this direction is vital for all the member states. From the social point of view needs of local

people who depend on fisheries for their livelihoods should be taken into consideration. Practical measures on the involvement of the fishers and fish farmers in developing and implementing policies are a necessary step to ensure sustainable fisheries now and in the future.

71. Aquaculture is potentially able to provide a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the fishing sector, both quantitatively by optimizing the fish deficiency and qualitatively by enabling natural populations to be preserved. Unfortunately aquaculture in the region is still suffering from a lack of legislation framework and investment. Particular attention must be given to the large-scale research and programs in this direction.
72. Institutional reforms in the fisheries sector is still continuing in a number of member states and realization of this process without clear mechanisms would lead to the critical conditions of the fisheries. Consequently access to natural water resources, privatization of stocks and their appropriate exploitation, including “responsible” management of resources, should be regulated in accordance with the internationally adopted principles. Creation of the independent public agencies to be supervised by authorities comprising representatives of relevant administrations and user’s groups, who are responsible for evaluating resources, allocating rights of use and financing natural resources enhancement programs, could be considered as a good practice.
73. Taking into consideration the last tendencies in the fisheries sector of the Black Sea region and their increasing role in food supply and significant impact on the economic and social aspects of the countries, the governments should consider a fish industry as the component of strategic significance. Establishment of the unified principles and norms for the management, preservation and optimal exploitation of water living resources, as well as unification of the fish production standards is the paramount requirement for the BSEC member states.

