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In Übereinstimmung mit der Verordnung (EWG, Euratom) Nr. 354/83 des Rates vom 1. Februar 1983 über die Freigabe der historischen Archive der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und der Europäischen Atomgemeinschaft (ABl. L 43 vom 15.2.1983, S. 1), geändert durch die Verordnung (EG, Euratom) Nr. 1700/2003 vom 22. September 2003 (ABl. L 243 vom 27.9.2003, S. 1), ist diese Datei der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich. Soweit erforderlich, wurden die Verschlussachen in dieser Datei in Übereinstimmung mit Artikel 5 der genannten Verordnung freigegeben.

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(83) 593 final (orig. Fr)  
Brussels, 6 October 1983.

## STATUS OF GREENLAND

(Commission Communication to the Council)



Communication of the Commission to the CouncilStatus of Greenland

- I.1 During Council discussions following receipt of the Commission's opinion on the change in the status of Greenland<sup>(1)</sup>, in particular at the Council meeting of 19 September, the Commission was asked to submit detailed practical proposals on the solutions to be adopted in the fisheries sector.
- I.2. The Commission feels that the aim of this communication is to help reconcile the positions of the delegations and give the Council a full explanation of the implications of the options chosen; it represents a balanced solution which takes into account the interests of the Community and of Greenland.
- II. It is also worth giving a fuller explanation of the position adopted by the Commission in its opinion as regards the financial aid to be granted to Greenland under the future arrangements.
- III.1 As regards fisheries, although the Commission was in its opinion in favour of granting OCT-status to Greenland, it also proposed that specific provisions be made for fisheries since this issue could not be regulated on the basis of the Treaty articles governing OCT status.
- 2 For this purpose, the draft amendment to the Treaties attached to the opinion<sup>(2)</sup> accordingly contains a protocol on special arrangements for Greenland. Article 1 provides for the conclusion of an agreement between the Community and the authority competent for Greenland to determine

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(1) COM(83) 66 final, 22 February 1983.

(2) Annex C.

conditions of access to Greenland waters for Community fishermen.

Article 1 also states that imports of fishery products, including processed products, originating in and coming from Greenland should be freely admitted to Community territory if the possibilities of access to Greenland waters "are satisfactory to the Community". This goes beyond the principles of the OCT system, which merely provides for preferential treatment of products from an overseas country or territory as compared with third countries.

3 This communication supplements the Commission opinion by defining the contents of a fisheries agreement to be concluded between the Community, and the authority competent for Greenland.

3.1 The agreement could be based on the following principles:

- A) After consulting the Community, the Greenland authorities should set annual TACs on the basis of scientific data (taking into account the requirements and the actual possibilities for developing the fishing activities of the Greenland population and the Community's traditional fishing interests) and establish fishing conditions with no discrimination between Greenland and other fishermen.
  
- B) The agreement should set annual quotas for Greenland and the Community, reflecting the above mentioned interests of Greenland and the Community (including those of third countries which have signed international agreements with the Community on access to Greenland waters), and particularly reflecting the aim of maintaining Community fishing activities in Greenland waters, on which the balance of the common fisheries policy depends, in each of the three following cases :

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- unchanged TACs,
- increased TACs,
- reduced TACs.

- a) First of all, reference bases should be determined in a way which will allow the Community's fishing activities to be maintained at the current level for each of the species in question.

The reference bases considered by the Commission are the possibilities actually open to the Community under the Decision of 25 January 1983. For west Greenland cod, this represents a total quantity of 75.000 tonnes - 62.000 tonnes for Greenland fishermen and 13.000 tonnes for other Community fishermen.

- b) As regards consideration of the annual trend in TACs for each species during the term of the agreement :
- If TACs are unchanged, it is proposed that the ratio of allocations to the Community and Greenland should also remain unchanged.
  - If TACs increase, the share of the increase to be allocated to each of the two parties will have to be determined.

The solution proposed by the Commission is to allow Greenland a fixed proportion of the increase (which will be increased over the years) and share the remainder between Greenland and the Community in accordance with a percentage scale to be determined.

Also it would be provided that if Greenland's actual fishing capacity was insufficient to exhaust its quotas thus laid down, the Community should be entitled to benefit.

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- If TACs fall, the basic principle is that the reduction is borne by the two parties, but a priority would be recognized for Greenland's vital requirements.

c) Appropriate measures will be provided for salmon.

4. As regards the duration of the agreement, the Commission considers that the arrangements governing access to Greenland waters should be laid down at least for the medium term.

A five-year period is proposed; this corresponds to the schedule of decisions implementing the OCT arrangements.

However, since OCT status would be granted on a permanent basis, although coupled with flexible measures concerning the access of Greenland fishery products to the Community market, it must be made clear that Greenland is prepared to undertake to maintain relations with the Community as regards access to its fishing zones in the longer term. The most appropriate solution would therefore appear to be to conclude an agreement which would be renewed by tacit agreement at the end of each five-year period, together with a legal or political commitment along these lines (in parallel with the OCT solution).

- IV. As regards the section on financial aid, the Commission limited itself in its opinion to saying that it would be equivalent to an amount to be determined over and above the total amount granted to OCTs under the current rules.

It should be explained at this stage that the measures for granting OCT status to Greenland would normally consist of including this additional amount in the EDF and ensuring that the aid was managed in accordance with EDF procedures.

However, if Greenland were not granted OCT status or if recourse is not accepted to the EDF, the establishment of a specific budget line would have to be considered as the Commission cannot favour the creation of new financial instruments outside the budget.