



MISSION OF NORWAY
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

NOTE VERBALE

96/15

The Mission of Norway to the European Union presents its compliments to the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission and has the honour to refer to the entry into force on 29 October 2013 of the amendment of 2006 to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in Northeast Atlantic Fisheries of 1980, which includes inter alia sedentary species to the scope of this convention.

Furthermore, reference is made to the proposal in the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) to the Heads of Delegation letter dated 29 June 2015 (HOD 15/49) regarding exploratory bottom fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area of the Barents Sea on *Paralithodes camtschaticus* (red king crab) and *Chionoecetes opilio* (snow crab), and the following postal vote on the proposal, in which Norway, the Russian Federation and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands & Greenland) voted against the proposal for reasons explained in their respective votes.

In accordance with Article 77 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (hereafter referred to as Convention of 1982), the Coastal State exercises sovereign rights over the continental shelf for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources, including sedentary species.

The Kingdom of Norway and the Russian Federation delimited the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the Barents Sea by signing the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Norway concerning Maritime Delimitation and Cooperation in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean of 15 September 2010, in force on 7 July 2011. The continental shelf of this treaty includes the continental shelf of the NEAFC regulatory area.

On the basis of the above, the right to harvest sedentary species on the continental shelf of the Barents Sea in the NEAFC regulatory area is the exclusive right of the Coastal States. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 77 of the Convention of 1982, harvesting of sedentary species in the NEAFC Regulatory Area in the Barents Sea cannot be carried out without the express consent of the Coastal States.

The Mission of Norway to the European Union avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission the assurance of its highest consideration.



Brussels, 30 October 2015