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**Statement of the EU social partners in Sea Fishing in support of the right that social partners' agreements are made legally binding**

The Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Sea Fisheries meeting in Brussels on 14 February 2014 -held a debate on the decision of the European Commission not to present to the Council the agreement signed by the social partners on occupational health and safety in the hairdressing sector. Social partners in Sea Fisheries had already expressed their support to the request of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee in Hairdressing in a statement adopted on 11 October 2013.

In view of this, the Social Dialogue Committee in Sea Fisheries adopted the following resolution:

The Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee in Sea Fisheries:

Recalls that articles 152, 153 and 155 of the TFEU establish respectively that:

- The European Union recognises and promotes the role of the social partners at its level and shall facilitate dialogue between the social partners, respecting their autonomy;
- The EU shall support and complement the activities of the Member States to improve working environment and to protect workers' health and safety and working conditions;
- Agreements concluded at Union level shall be implemented [...] in matters covered by Article 153, at the joint request of the signatory social partners, by a Council decision on a proposal from the Commission.

Expresses its concerns about the decision of the European Commission not to present to the Council the agreement signed by the social partners in the hairdressing sector on occupational health and safety.

Regards this decision as infringing in general on the autonomy and the role of the social partners as foreseen by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). It sets a negative political and legal precedent for the Commission's approach to social dialogue.

Considers this decision particularly unacceptable in light of the recent Commission Communication on "Strengthening the Social Dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union" and the commitment expressed therein to strengthening the role of the social partners in policymaking.

Stresses that it is the role of the Commission as guardian of the Treaty to facilitate the adoption of social dialogue agreements.

Calls upon the Commission to respond positively to the request of the social partners of the hairdressing sector and propose the agreement to the Council without further delay.

Brussels, 14 February 2014