

## EUROPEAN UNION

### **Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session**

#### **COMMON POSITION**

- Mr President, distinguished Members and representatives of the FAO Secretariat, the EU and its Member States take this opportunity to express their disappointment concerning the late **release – as from January only – of the supporting documents to the Agenda items of this COFI 34**. This has seriously impeded the preparation of the EU and its Member States for this meeting. We also want to highlight the need to **make all documents available in all of the UN languages**.
- In principle, **many documents should have been available a long time ago** since COFI was originally scheduled for July 2020.
- The early circulation of the documents was all the more necessary since, **for the first time, our meeting takes place virtually**, and it was also virtually that we had to prepare for it, coordinate ourselves and approach other delegations.
- We understand that under other agenda items, **we will discuss the COFI working method and ways to enhance COFI discussion** on fisheries management. For the EU and its Member States, **the timing for the delivery of the COFI session documents should be part of the elements to consider**.