Fisheries partnership agreements concluded between the European Community and third countries: authorisation of the Commission to approve modifications to protocols

2007/0222(NLE) - 15/10/2007 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to allow the Commission to implement possible adjustments of fishing opportunities set out in the protocols to Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

BACKGROUND: the Commission has been replacing the previous bi-lateral Fisheries Agreements with “Fisheries Partnership Agreements” that are accompanied by financial contributions. The Protocols to the fisheries partnership agreements fix the fishing opportunities for Community vessels in third country waters as well as the corresponding financial contribution. At the same time, each of these Agreements provide for adjusting the fishing opportunities in order to take account of revised scientific data or the utilisation rate of the fishing opportunities. The effect of these adjustments will, however, have a corresponding effect on the Community’s financial contribution.

CONTENT: the purpose of this proposal is to speed up implementation of the adjustments to the Protocols by authorising the Commission to approve them. The Commission would also be authorised to adapt the fishing opportunities allocated among the Member States in accordance with the existing allocation keys. Implementation measures will be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EEC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission.

Whilst the proposal has no direct budgetary implications, the Commission proposes that each new Commission Regulation (that makes adjustments to fishing opportunities) will be accompanied by a financial statement outlining the financial consequences of the changes and on revised level, if relevant. The Commission also notes that, in accordance with each Protocol to Fisheries Partnership Agreements, any changes in the level of the new financial contribution cannot exceed **twice the original amount**.