Declaration on support for strengthening the European Union ban on shark finning

2010/2312(DCE) - 16/12/2010 - Written declaration

The European Parliament adopted a declaration on support for strengthening the European Union ban on shark finning.

Parliament notes that ‘finning’ is the wasteful practice of slicing off a shark's fins and discarding the carcass at sea which is contributing to extreme declines in slow-growing shark populations. One-third of European shark species are threatened with extinction.

The resolution recalls that in 2006 Parliament asked the Commission to close finning ban loopholes which appeared in the EU finning ban, which is the world's weakest ban.

Most scientists and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recommend that sharks be landed with fins naturally attached.

With regard to these considerations, the Commission is invited to **deliver a proposal to prohibit the removal of shark fins** on-board vessels by the second anniversary of the Community Plan of Action for Sharks (February 2011).