Resolution on the European fisheries sector crisis due to the rise in oil prices

2011/2668(RSP) - 12/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 9 May 2011, the European Parliament adopted by 369 votes to 203, with 27 abstentions, a resolution n the European fisheries sector crisis due to the rise in oil prices.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, EFD, ECR, S&D, and GUE/NGL groups.

It calls on the Commission to adopt emergency measures to alleviate the difficult economic situation in which European fishermen find themselves, which has been further aggravated by the increase in fuel prices. Members want the Commission to **raise the ceiling on de minimis aid from EUR 30 000 to EUR 60 000 per firm for a transitional period of three years**, at the same time ensuring that environmental and social sustainability are not undermined and that competition between Member States is not distorted;

They also call for the introduction of **mechanisms to improve the first-sale price** and promote the fair and appropriate distribution of added value throughout the value chain in the fisheries sector, boosting the prices paid at the production stage and keeping prices for final consumers as low as possible.

Members go on to insist that the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) should continue to grant aid to improve the selectivity of fishing gear and to replace engines on grounds of safety, environmental protection and/or fuel economy – above all for small-scale coastal and traditional fishermen. The Commission is asked to propose an **action plan for coastal regions and islands** which have an active fishing sector.

With regard to **fuel efficiency**, Parliament calls on the Commission to draw up:

- a medium- and long-term plan aimed at improving fuel efficiency in the fisheries (including aquaculture) sector;
- in the proposal for a regulation on the reform of the EFF, suitable measures to improve fuel efficiency in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- investments, at both European and national level, in new technologies in order to increase the energy efficiency of fishing vessels and so reduce fishermen's dependency on fossil fuels.