Indemnity to fishermen having to suspend their fishing activities in waters under the sovereignty of Morocco

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The Council adopted the Decision to compensate the Spanish and Portuguese crews of some 700 vessels affected by the suspension of fishing activities in Moroccan waters pending a new Fisheries Agreement between the Community and Morocco. The Decision mobilises Community budgetary resources of approximately ECU 24 million to implement this measure in favour of fishermen. Compensation for shipowners does not require further budgetary resources since it falls within the FIFG appropriations already granted to Spain and Portugal. Furthermore, since the legal framework for compensating shipowners already exists under Regulation (EC) No 3699/93, the Decision merely simplifies the application of the legal instrument in question. In adopting the Decision the Council took into account the serious disturbance in the economies of certain areas of the Member States concerned and the fact that the shipowners and fishermen in question have had to suspend all fishing activities as a result of the failure to renew the Agreement. The indemnity is to be granted from 1 May 1995 until the date on which fishing activities recommence under a new Agreement with Morocco and up to 31 December 1995 at the latest.