EC/Canada, Russian Federation Agreement: on international standards of trapping, humane trapping standards

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The agreement negotiated by the European Commission with Canada and Russia on humane trapping standards was rejected by the Committee. Adopting a report by Mr Carlos PIMENTA (EPP,P), the committee took the view that the accord, which inter alia covers leghold traps, would not prevent cruelty to animals. However, as Parliament has only consultative status, it cannot stop the Council approving the agreement. Members criticized the Commission for bowing to external pressure. Negotiations are continuing with the United States, which refused to endorse the current agreement on the grounds that it was too restrictive.