Fisheries in the Mediterranean and aquaculture

1995/2087(INI) - 19/12/1995

The Committee on Fisheries unanimously adopted the proposal for a resolution containing a series of recitals (from A to Z10) defining the common fisheries policy in the Mediterranean area and a platform based on the intervention measures and activities which the Union needs to set in order to have a strategic reference framework in the Euro-Mediterranean context of this common policy. The resolution proposes, inter alia, that the Union join the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) with exclusive powers to replace the powers of Member States which protect the specific interests of their national fisheries organizations, that a Euro-Mediterranean conference on the sea be held as part of the follow-up to the Barcelona conference and that a "Leader of the sea" programme be launched in favour of maritime zones in difficulty and employment. It also calls for bilateral fisheries agreements to be concluded between the Union and the countries bordering the Mediterranean. These should be global agreements relating not only to fisheries but to all trade between these countries and the Union; these global agreements should not overlook environmental problems and the draft resolution stresses the need for toxic and harmful waste to be eliminated and the most highly contaminated industrial and urban zones to be cleaned up. A whole series of technical and commercial measures are planned in order to make the most of Mediterranean fish. Finally, the committee recognized the fundamental role of professional associations organized on a regional basis in order to implement forms of participation in fisheries which benefited the operators in question and had positive fallout on the use of the financial instruments provided to protect and develop the sector.