EC/Madagascar fisheries agreement: protocol for the period from 21 May 1995 to 20 May 1998

1995/0187(CNS) - 23/01/1996

The Committee adopted by a majority of 12 votes to 2 with 1 abstention the report by Mrs Patricia McKENNA (GREENS, IRL), for the renewal of the protocol between the Community and Madagascar for the period 1995 to 1998. As is now customary, this report also contained the important charge that in this, as in virtually every other third country agreement, the Council had repeatedly failed to consult Parliament at a meaningful stage of the negotiations. However, the Committee did not accept the conclusion of the rapporteur, that this and other shortcomings in the agreement justified its outright rejection. Nevertheless, through a series of amendments, members showed their dissatisfaction with the Commission's approach, calling in particular for an increased obligation on the part of the Union in future agreements to invest in local infrastructure. Members also called for a full assessment report on the impact of the current accord before the end of 1996. On the institutional question, the Committee preferred to hold its fire and wait for the Report by Mrs LANGENHAGEN on the IGC and for an oral question with debate on "International and multilateral agreements in the Fisheries sector", which it is hoped will be taken during the March plenary. It should be noted that a further opportunity to discuss the democratic deficit in this area will occur later in the year, at a seminar on international agreements, to be organised by the Commission and attended by MEPs and industry representatives. MEPs and industry representatives.