Measure to encourage Italian fishermen to diversify out of certain fishing activities (Spadare driftnets)

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The report by Mr Francesco BALDARELLI (PSE, I) adopted by the committee highlighted the voluntary nature of the programme for the Italian swordfish fleet, which provides either for definitive cessation of activities or for diversification under more selective systems. The report proposed a number of improvements to the proposal for a Council decision to implement more efficient aid. Aid should be granted both to Italian fishermen and to all fishermen legally employed on board vessels flying the Italian flag during the 1995 fishing season. In addition, the Italian government should be authorized, within the framework of Community regulations, to distribute national aid, where necessary, in order to deal with the economic consequences of the conversion of the driftnet swordfish fleet. Converting this type of fishing fleet, which uses drift nets, will not per se resolve the problem of the use of this type of gear in the Mediterranean. The committee highlighted the fact that a solution needed to be found within a general regional framework which also applied to third country fleets and took account of the problem of fishing gear other than drift nets which might be equally harmful to the conservation of resources.