Common fisheries policy: closer dialogue with industry and groups concerned

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The committee adopted the report (consultation procedure) by Rosa MIGUELEZ RAMOS (PES, E) approving the Commission proposal subject to two amendments. The first of these sought to ensure greater precision in the text of the proposal regarding compliance with the conditions and performance of the tasks assigned to trade organisations within the framework of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries (ACF), stressing that the Commission would exercise financial control over payments made in connection with those tasks. The other amendment introduced a new provision whereby the Commission would report annually to Parliament and the Council on the substance and conclusion of debates held within the ACF. The committee felt that Parliament and Council needed to know what issues were raised in the dialogue between the Commission and the social partners so that they would be better able to determine the direction of the common fisheries policy. The report also noted that the means by which information on Community policy is to be disseminated should be chosen with the target group in mind. It cited small-scale coastal fishing as an example of a sector which existed in all EU countries, had difficulties in gaining access to information while nevertheless being in great need of such information, and yet was neither familiar with nor had access to new information technologies. The report concluded, therefore, that it would be prudent to give priority to information campaigns in those sectors using media which were accessible to them.