Fisheries sector: arrangements regarding Community structural assistance (amend Regul. 3699/93/EEC))

1995/0058(CNS) - 20/03/1995 - Legislative proposal

The proposal for a regulation was aimed at extending the range of socio-economic measures already available under the Structural Funds to provide aid to enterprises and persons in the fisheries sector and to areas which are dependent on the fishing industry, in order that this sector would not be deprived of its dynamic and skilled elements as a result of reductions in fishing capacity. It was therefore proposed to implement new measures at Community level, including actions in favour of older fishermen, in the context of existing FIFG provisions: - co-financing of national early-retirement schemes for fishermen (with the exception of support for retirement contributions paid pending normal retirement at the legal age); - granting of individual flat-rate payments to fishermen, based on an eligible cost which is limited to ECU 7,000 for each individual beneficiary, for the permanent cessation of fishing activities by the vessel on which the beneficiaries work; - aid for establishing a fund for unemployment due to bad-weather and mechanisms for providing financial compensation to fishermen in the event of dramatic fluctuations in the price of the products landed. The new measures were to be introduced on an optional basis and it would be left to the discretion of Member States themselves to define, in their own specific context, the legal framework needed for their implementation.