Fisheries in the Mediterranean and aquaculture

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- Objective: to define the outlines of current fisheries policy in the Mediterranean (state of progress) and the prospects of establishing a common fisheries regime in that zone. - Contents: in its communication, the Commission identifies the main features of fisheries policy in the Mediterranean. Until 1990, that policy had been left on one side by the common fisheries policy (established in 1983) because of the special features of the fisheries sector in the area. The policy should now be implemented gradually, in tandem with the overall EC-Mediterranean cooperation policy, particularly with a view to the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference (in late 1995). The main features of the policy are as follows: . harmonisation of technical conservation measures for fisheries resources in the Mediterranean: adoption of a regulation entering into force on 1 January 1995 and designed to rationalise fisheries in the area; . international cooperation among coastal states: the organisation of a diplomatic conference on the management of fish stocks in the zone (Crete, December 1994) resulted in a solemn declaration providing for cooperation between the parties for the protection of fish stocks in the region; in parallel, boosting the Community presence within the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean; . involvement of professional fishermen's associations (e.g. EUROPECHE/COGECA or other organisations in the relevant countries) in the Commission's proposals in this area through the intermediary of the Consultative Committee for Fisheries; . multiannual guidance programmes or MAGPs applicable to the Mediterranean. The MAGPs for the period 1992/95 provide for reductions in the Community fishing effort of 20%, 15% and 0% respectively for demersal, benthic and pelagic resources. Applied to the Mediterranean zone, the reduction in overcapacity is almost half that in all the rest of the other maritime areas (5% rather than 10%); . structural measures: no special conditions for the Mediterranean zone in regard to the Structural Funds or FIFG, but a large part of the zone is covered by Objective 1 (and therefore in receipt of higher levels of Community aid); . Community-funded studies and pilot projects: ECU 16.2 million between 1991 and 1994 to carry out studies and projects designed to set in place a common fisheries regime in the Mediterranean. The projects largely relate to fisheries research (mainly biological aspects) and the socio-economic dimension of Mediterranean fisheries. The budget line was deleted in 1994, prompting some uncertainty about research funding; . monitoring of fisheries activities: the Council adopted Regulation 2847/93, establishing an inspection system for the common fisheries policy. The measures for which it provides will not apply to the Mediterranean region until 1999.