EC/Canada fisheries agreement

1995/0144(CNS) - 12/06/1995 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: conclusion of a fisheries agreement between the Community and Canada with a view to increasing cooperation between the parties in the conservation and management of fish stocks in the NAFO (North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation) Regulatory Area and monitoring the allocation of the TAC for Greenland halibut, which is the source of many conflicts between the Community and Canada. SUBSTANCE: this proposal is the supplement to the urgent proposal of 16 April 1995 concerning the signature and provisional application of the EC-Canada fisheries agreement (CNS95095, COM(95)0400), which led to the adoption of the corresponding Council Decision of 17 April 1995. It should thus be considered as a single proposal. This agreement, constituted in the form of an agreed minute, an exchange of letters, an exchange of notes and the annexes thereto, seeks to enhance cooperation between the parties in the conservation and rational management of fish stocks within the framework of NAFO. In particular, the agreement provides for: .a series of fisheries control and enforcement measures in the NAFO Regulatory Area (including the application of a programme for the inspection of vessels operating in the area concerned, the detailed implementation of the control measures, and, in particular, the catches made by vessels operating in this area and the introduction of a pilot observation programme, chargeable to the Union, applicable to Community vessels), .the allocation of the authorised catch for Greenland halibut in the fisheries area concerned: in 1995 the TAC for 2 + 3 Greenland halibut in the NAFO Regulatory Area will be divided as follows: - 2 + 3 K (Canadian 200 miles): 7 000 tonnes (reserved for Canada); - 3 LMNO: 20 000 tonnes (including 10 000 tonnes for Canada and 5 013 tonnes for the Community from 16 April 1995). From 1996, NAFO will manage the quotas for Greenland halibut. Quota allocations will be in the ratio of 10:3 for the European Union and Canada. At the same time, and following various disputes resulting from Canada's expansion of the scope of its law on coastal fisheries protection (Coastal Fisheries Protection Act of 3 March 1995) and the subsequent arrest of EC vessels (Spanish and Portuguese in particular) on the high seas outside the Canadian 200 mile zone, the agreement contains an exchange of letters in which Canada is requested to repeal the provisions of its legislation and suspend legal proceedings against Community vessels (notably the Spanish fishing vessel "Estai").