Scheme of joint international inspection, Northwest Atlantic fisheries Organisation, NAFO (amend. regul. 1956/88/EEC)

1995/0150(CNS) - 14/06/1995 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to amend the scheme of joint international inspection regarding vessels operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area, following the conclusion of a fisheries agreement between the EU and Canada, concluded on 20 April 1995, with a view to strengthening monitoring and compliance with inspection measures currently in force. SUBSTANCE: Regulation (EEC) No 1956/88 adopting provisions for the implementation of the scheme of joint international inspection adopted by NAFO was amended with a view to strengthening monitoring and compliance with measures in force in the NAFO Regulatory Area (North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation). The amendments were primarily aimed at increasing the role and responsibilities of the Commission inspectors assigned to the International Inspection Scheme. They covered the following points: . inspections were to be carried out in a non-discriminatory manner; . the number of inspections was based upon fleet size, taking into account their compliance records; . inspections should avoid damage to the cargo or to the gear inspected and minimise disruption to fishing activities; . each Contracting Party having 10 or more fishing vessels operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area should deploy at least one inspection vessel; . any information about illegal practices or evidence of infringements should be forwarded to the inspection authorities of the flag Member State and to the NAFO Executive Secretary; . if an apparent infringement was deemed sufficiently serious, the inspector was required to notify the NAFO Executive Secretary immediately and was authorised take all necessary measures to ensure security of the evidence, including sealing the vessel's hold. These measures would not entail any additional costs for the Community.