EC/Canada, Russian Federation Agreement: on international standards of trapping, humane trapping standards

1997/0019(CNS) - 29/05/1997 - Modified legislative proposal

In an amended version of the agreement on international humane trapping standards agreed following additional negotiations and consultations between the parties, the Community, Canada and the Russian Federation there are the following new provisions: - derogations: the use of traditional wooden traps essential for preserving the cultural heritage of indigenous communities will be authorized; - commitology: the Joint Management Committee can meet at the request of one of the Paries; - arbitration: the Arbitration Body convened in relation to a dispute between the parties must issue its ruling no later than 180 days after the date on which the President is appointed. The ruling which it gives is final and binding on the disputing Parties and cannot be appealed; - standards: technical modifications have been made to the text of the annexes with a view to improving the content, in particular with regard to: . thresholds for killing traps: the time 'to' unconsciousness (and not the time 'of' unconsciousness), . behavioural indicators and injuries: indicators and injuries 'recognized as' indicators of poor welfare, . target species: a new target species has been added to the list of species covered by the agreement: Martes martes or Pine marten; - implementation schedule for standards: the new text no longer specifies that the traditional leghold traps must be totally banned within four years of the entry into force of the agreement. They may continue to be used for certain species or under specific environmental conditions, when a competent authority has not been able to certify them, for the period required while research continues to identify replacement traps (the old version permitted this type of derogation for all traps except, specifically, for traditional leghold traps). - declarations of the parties annexed to the agreement: following the additional consultations which took place in May and June 1997 with the parties and in accordance with the suggestions made by the Council on 24 February 1997, two new declarations supplement the initial text: 1) declaration by Russia on derogations for the use of traditional wooden traps: Russia undertakes that this type of trap will be used exclusively for the trapping of Martes zibelina and Mustela erminea and only by trappers belonging to indigenous communities located in Siberia, the Extreme North and the Far East territories. Russia also undertakes that animals trapped with such trapping methods will mot exceed the following maximum percentages of the total number of animals of these species trapped in the Russian Federation: . 1.4% for Martes zibelina, . 3.5% for Mustela erminea; 2)declarations by Canada and Russia on the use of conventional steel-jawed leghold restraining traps: . Russia undertakes to prohibit the use of these traps by 31 December 1999 provided that international financial assistance is available to cover a sufficient part of the economic cost of the replacement of these traps (which are the only type of leghold restraining traps used within its territory). In any case, these traps will be completely prohibited within four years after the entry into force of the agreement (whether or not there has been international financial assistance), . Canada undertakes to prohibit completely jaw-type leghold restraining traps at the date of entry into force of the agreement for a certain number of target species living on its territory and to prohibit the use of conventional steel-jawed leghold traps within an accelerated period to be determined in relation to the testing period necessary for implementation of the agreement for the remaining species.