EC/Equatorial Guinea fisheries agreement: protocol for the period from 1st July 1997 to 30 June 2000

1997/0268(CNS) - 21/10/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: under the fisheries agreement between the European Community and Equatorial Guinea, the fishing opportunities open to Community vessels and the financial compensation granted in exchange to Guinea are the subject of periodically renewed Protocols. The last Protocol expired on 30 June 1997, and the new Protocol seeks its renewal for the period 1 July 1997 - 30 June 2000. SUBSTANCE: The fishing opportunities opened under the Protocol chiefly concern Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian fishermen. The proposed Regulation allocates fishing opportunities among the four fleets: licences for, respectively, 27 French vessels, 35 Spanish vessels, 5 Portuguese vessels and 1 Italian vessel. If licence applications from those Member States do not exhaust the fishing possibilities provided for in the Protocol, licence applications from other Member States may be considered. With particular reference to the Protocol, the fishing opportunities provided for are allocated as follows: - licences for freezer tuna seiners: 30 vessels; - pole-and-line tuna vessels: 8 vessels; - surface longliners: 30 vessels. In exchange, Equatorial Guinea is granted financial compensation of ECU 600.000 covering a catch weight of 4.000 tonnes of tuna fished per year. Beyond this quantity, the amount of financial compensation is proportionately increased. The Community also contributes towards the financing of Equatorial Guinea scientific and technical development programmes for a total amount of ECU 50.000 and provides awards for study and practical training, whose total cost may not exceed ECU 140.000, for fishermen of that country. Provision is also made for an amount of ECU 170.000 for the financing of fisheries surveillance programmes. The Annex to the Protocol lays down conditions for the issue of licences and the obligations of Community vessels regarding fishing activities (catch statements and landing, fisheries areas, monitoring, etc.).