Fishing resources, conservation of Atlantic Tunas ICCAT 1997: transhipments and vessel observation

1998/0305(CNS) - 30/10/1998 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down certain control measures to ensure compliance with the measures adopted by ICCAT. CONTENT: The European Community became a contracting party to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 1997. Its purpose is the conservation and management of resources of tuna and tuna-like fish in the Atlantic and adjacent seas. ICCAT has adopted conservation and management measures that are binding on contracting parties. Fishing by certain vessels that is contrary to these measures is threatening their effectiveness.To discourage illegal activity, ICCAT meeting in November 1997, adopted a recommendation on trans-shipments and vessel observation. In the absence of any objection, this recommendation became binding on the contracting parties from 13 June 1998. As a contracting party, the Community should apply it, and the purpose of the proposal is to incorporate it into Community law. The Regulation will restrict shipments to Community vessels at sea of species falling within the competence of ICCAT to fish from vessels flying the flag of a co-operating party, entity or fishing entity. It will also set requirements on exchange of information on vessels suspected of activity detrimental to the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT. These provisions will help improve monitoring at sea and discourage illegal fishing.