Fisheries in the Mediterranean and aquaculture

1995/2087(INI) - 16/02/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Francesco BALDARELLI (PSE, I), the European Parliament, having first highlighted a series of objectives defining the common fisheries policy in the Mediterranean and the need to comply with international measures to conserve and manage fishery resources, considered that the European Union should join the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) alongside the Member States already associated with it. It called in particular for the Union to be given exclusive jurisdiction in the matter, taking account of the specific characteristics of national fisheries organizations. The GFCM, for its part, should encourage Member States of the European Union and third countries belonging to the GFCM to conclude experimental conventions on the management of homogenous Mediterranean areas. These are areas in which biological degradation and the crisis in the fisheries sector have reached such proportions that extraordinary intervention and ecologically advanced forms of resource management are needed (reduction in fishing effort, seasonal fishing, biological recovery etc.). The European Parliament also called for a Euro-Mediterranean conference on the sea to be held in collaboration with the GFCM as part of the follow up to the Barcelona conference. Calling for the European Union to act in favour of maritime zones in difficulty, Parliament proposed that a "LEADER of the sea" programme should be launched, defining integrated economic development plans, land/sea complementarity, the introduction of training and information programmes and the creation of marketing-linked networks. Parliament also stressed the need to speed up action to clean up the Mediterranean. At the same time, it hoped the most would be made of Mediterranean fish by promoting fresh and processed seafood with certificates of origin and that national and regional authorities would work with ecological and consumer protection associations and self-regulatory associations of fishermen to strengthen and improve control structures in the Mediterranean area in the form of specific conventions and projects governed by protocols of agreement. It also stressed the importance of targeted research in order to avoid duplication and waste of resources and energy in this sector. It considered, in particular, that European, national or regional research institute programmes in this sector should be subject to the opinion of the relevant national and regional technical committees and notified to the European Union database. Finally, it considered that, under no circumstances should the common fisheries policy be compartmentalized and that efforts should be made to avoid derogations in the application of fisheries measures in the Mediterranean.