Relations with the Overseas countries and Territories OCTs, the ACP and very remote regions

1998/2163(INI) - 11/02/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament voted to endorse the resolution drafted by Mr. Aldo (GUE, F) which stresses the importance of the EU's ultra-peripheral regions, in particular in the context of EU-ACP relations. This should be seen in the context of the political and economic partnerships which the European Union is proposing to build with the sub-regions of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, within the framework of the forthcoming ACP-EC Convention, with provisions in due course for the establishment of a free trade area. The Parliament called upon the Commission and the Council to use appropriate information and consultation procedures to involve both the outermost regions and the OCTs on a systematic basis whenever one or other group can provide value added for Community action or may be directly affected by an internal legal provision or an international agreement, in particular within the current negotiations for new co-operation agreements between the EU and the ACP States. Among other things, the EP also called : - on the negotiators of the future ACP-EU Convention to enshrine in the body of the future Convention an express reference to the specific situation of the outermost regions and the OCTs within the overall EU-ACP relationship and to incorporate therein Annexes 32 and 34 to the Fourth ACP-EC Convention which should be extended to cover all the outermost regions; - for regional co-operation between ACP States, OCTs and outermost regions to be allocated a separate budget, the funds for which should be drawn from appropriations available under the EDF, ERDF operational programmes, the new INTERREG III Community initiative, and, where appropriate, the OCTDF, and for it to operate in an independent and uniform manner with a view to alleviating the problems and delays arising from the difference in status between each of the three partners; - on the Commission to submit legislative proposals in order to give substance to the establishment of the specific legal status of the outermost regions pursuant to Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty (as amended by the Treaty of Amsterdam). - on the Commission to take greater account of specific regional characteristics in the common fisheries policy, in particular in the Multiannual Guidance Programmes (MGPs) with a view to putting into place a management structure differentiated on the basis of the level of the particular stock and to promote the development of fishing in maritime areas with great fisheries potential; with this in mind, it called on the Commission to study the possibility of regionalising the MGPs; - on the authorities concerned to be extermely vigilant in checking the place of origin of products so as to prevent the abuse of the system by third countries and deflections of trade that unleash safeguard measures which heavily penalise all Community, OCT and ACP producers and operators.