Measure to encourage Italian fishermen to diversify out of certain fishing activities (Spadare driftnets)

1996/0308(CNS) - 24/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Francesco BALDARELLI (PSE, I), the European Parliament proposed certain improvements to the Commission's proposal for the Union's participation in the financing of the Italian conversion plan for the driftnet fishing fleet. It wants explicit reference made in the proposal to the voluntary nature of the plan. It also calls for provision to be made for aid to be granted not only to Italian fishermen but to nationals of any Member State who were employed on 22 July 1996 as fishermen on a fishing vessel flying the Italian flag, practising this type of fishing, or who were employed in 1995, in the form of compensation for suspending this activity. Parliament also emphasizes the need to find a solution in a general regional framework that also extends to the fleets of third countries. In this respect, it feels that, pending a total ban on drift nets, the Union, together with such other institutions as the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), should undertake to carry out checks to ensure that drift nets from third-country fishing vessels in the Mediterranean fishery conform to the 2.5 km length limit.