Fishery sector problems in the NAFO zone

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Adopting the report by Mr Miguel ARIAS CANETE (PPE, E) on the problems of the fisheries sector in the NAFO zone, the European Parliament took the view that the European Union should reconsider its representation in the various bodies of the NAFO and should appoint representatives at a level which compared with that of other delegates. Calling on the Commission to abide by all the recommendations of the Scientific Committee of the NAFO, it urged it to lobby the Member States which have not yet joined this organization to do so as quickly as possible. As far as Community relations with Canada were concerned, Parliament welcomed the bilateral agreement concluded with Canada on 16 April 1995 with a view to achieving better stock management. However, it deplored the fact that the Canadian authorities had not seen fit to suspend the ban preventing Community vessels from entering Canadian ports. Expressing its concern with the problem of marine mammals, Parliament felt that consideration should be given to this area within other bodies in order to prevent differences of opinion on this matter from affecting the operation of the NAFO. Calling on the Commission to reconsider the voting system in international organizations in the fisheries sector, the European Parliament proposed that the European Union have as many votes as there were Member States with an interest in the fisheries in question. It also called for the Commission to improve its defence of fishing opportunities for the Community fleet, especially with regard to quotas of cod and black halibut, by demanding that the zero TAC for cod in zone 3NO be suspended, given the lack of any scientific justification for this measure. At the same time, it called on the Commission to work for the abolition of the facility to oppose conservation or management measures decided in the NAFO council, so that all majority decisions taken in these areas are recognized as binding by all the members of NAFO. Finally, the European Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to regulate their legal differences with regard to the signature of the UNO agreement on the management of overlapping stocks and stocks of major migratory species so that the European Union can ratify this agreement.