Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIFG, structural measures

1998/0116(CNS) - 19/11/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

At the request of the chairman of the Committee on Fisheries, Mrs Maria FRAGA ESTEVEZ (EPP, E) Parliament referred back to committee the report by Mr Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE (EPP, E) on structural measures in the fisheries sector. The grounds for Mrs FRAGA ESTEVEZ's request were that she wished to start a dialogue with the Council. The rapporteur considered in particular that Community funds for structural policy in the fisheries sector should cover all needs in the sector. The Community fisheries regulations should be amended. The rapporteur therefore proposed a single legal framework bringing together all Community fisheries regulations as part of the general Structural Funds reform package. Following the rapporteur's position, Parliament accepted a large number of amendments which reflected Mr ARIAS's proposals: - maintenance of a single legal framework which would be the basis for interventions in the fisheries sector: this approach which is radically different from the Commission's initial proposal sought to avoid the problems of consistency which could arise from the distribution of measures between the FIFG and the EAGGF Guarantee Section; - no acceptance of the definition of 'coastal areas' which Parliament considered to be more restrictive than the concept of 'areas dependent on fisheries' which would allow the hinterland to be taken into account where Structural Fund measures would be needed for aspects such as processing and aquaculture. Parliament also called for maintenance of all current measures, while also improving them, including those on the modernisation and renewal of the fleet and those relating to joint enterprises so as to maintain their competitiveness on the world market. Lastly, with regard to administrative and financial aspects, the participation of the FIFG would cover all structural actions in the fisheries sector for Objective 1 and 2 regions while the EAGGF Guarantee section would cover the other regions.