Diversification of fishing activities

1998/0274(CNS) - 16/12/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report drafted by Mr. Dominique SOUCHET (I-EDN, F) on the diversification out of certain fishing activities, the Parliament called for a delay in granting compensation measures to fishermen affected by the Council of Ministers' drift net ban, until the Court of Justice has ruled upon the appeal against the ban lodged by producer organisations. The ban on fishing with drift nets, intended to protect dolphins and other marine life, would affect French, Irish and UK fisherman particularly badly. If the drift net ban is not ruled illegal by the Court, fishermen and shipowners would need financial assistance in order to convert vessels to other types of fishing or to leave the ishing sector. Those ceasing all their activity in the fishing sector by 01.01.2002, provided that they are over 50 years of age, should be paid EUR 50 000. Those converting to other types of fishing would receive a payment of EUR 20,000. The Parliament also called for compensation for local authorities and producer organisations which had invested in port facilities and markets.