EC/Equatorial Guinea fisheries agreement: protocol for the period from 1st July 1997 to 30 June 2000

1997/0268(CNS) - 18/12/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to make provisions for the fishing opportunities which are open to EU fishing fleets and the financial compensation granted in exchange to Equatorial Guinea, as provided for in the Agreement on Fisheries between the European Economic Community and Equatorial Guinea for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 2000. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 114/98/EC on the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 2000, the fishing opportunities and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on fishing off the coast of Equatorial Guinea. CONTENT: The fishing opportunities opened under this Protocol chiefly concern Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian fishermen. The Regulation defines the key for the allocation of fishing opportunities among these four fishing fleets. Licences are therefore granted according to the type of vessel for: - 27 French vessels - 35 Spanish vessels - 5 Portuguese vessels - 1 Italian vessel. If licence applications from those Member States do not exhaust the fishing possibilities provided for in the Protocol, licence applications from other Member States may be considered. With particular reference to the Protocol, the fishing opportunities provided for are allocated as follows: - licences for freezer tuna seiners : 30 vessels - licences for pole-and-line tuna vessels : 8 vessels - licences for surface longliners : 30 vessels. In exchange, Equatorial Guinea is to be awarded financial compensation of ECU 600 000 to cover a catch weight of 4 000 tonnes of tuna per year. Beyond this quantity, the amount of financial compensation is proportionately increased. The Community also contributes towards the financing of Equatorial Guinea scientific and technical development programmes for the fishing industry for a total amount of ECU 50 000 and provides awards for study and practical training courses for fisherman of that country amounting to ECU 140 000. The sum of ECU 170 000 is also to be provided for the funding of fisheries surveillance programmes. The Annex to the Protocol lays down conditions for the issue of licences and the obligations of Community vessels regarding fishing activities (catch statements and landing, fisheries areas, monitoring, etc.). IMPLEMENTATION: the Regulation comes into force on 20 January 1998, with the Protocol entering into force once the parties have been notified of all the necessary procedures.