Resolution on negotiations for the EC-Morocco fisheries agreement

2000/2624(RSP) - 27/10/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted the resolution, by 124 votes to 3 with 6 abstentions, on the negotiations for an EC-Morocco fisheries agreement. It endorses the statements by the Commission and the Government of Morocco concerning the conservation of fish stocks. However, it is concerned at the fact that Morocco has granted access to other countries and undertakings while continuing to exclude Community vessels. Furthermore, the Parliament calls on the Commission and the Council to intensify their efforts to negotiate a new EC-Morocco fisheries agreement. It believes that this should be given maximum priority, in view of its key importance for the EU and fisheries dependent regions that are directly affected. On the other hand, should an agreement not be reached the Commission should prepare a set of measures, including social and economic measures to be funded by the EU with a view of setting the effects of non-renewal of the agreement, adapting the fleet to the new circumstances, and offering the regions concerned the prospect of economic diversification, not only for fishermen and vessel owners but also for the land-based processing and support industries.