Diversification of fishing activities

1998/0274(CNS) - 17/12/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to encourage diversification out of certain fishing activities. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 1999/27/EC on a specific measure to encourage diversification out of certain fishing activities and amending Decision 97/292/EC. CONTENT: in the interests of clarity, the amendment to Decision 97/292/EC lists the cases in which cumulation of aid is permitted. The Decision is aimed at two categories of beneficiaries: fishermen serving on board and owners of vessels. Provision is made for two types of aid: for the permanent cessation of activity and for conversion. The Decision only lays down the maximum amounts of aid. Member States are to adjust these in line with the actual economic or social loss resulting from the ban on fishing. They are also to take into account the cost of conversion and the age of the vessels. The Decision aims mainly to: - simplify the procedures while maintaining equal treatment for Italian fishermen on the one hand and for Spanish, Irish, French and UK fishermen on the other; - limit implementation to 1999 (no specific compensation for suspension is provided for); - introduce a derogation to the rules in force on aid for modernisation of vessels laid down in Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 so as to raise the ceiling on eligible expenditure and decrease the rate of participation by beneficiaries.