Basic information

1996/2142(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Common fisheries policy after the year 2002 **Subject** 3.15 Fisheries policy	

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	FRAGA ESTÉVEZ Carmen (PPE)	29/05/1996

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/09/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
29/09/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0298/1997	
05/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		
06/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/11/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2142(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/08092

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0298/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0006	29/09/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0536/1997 OJ C 358 24.11.1997, p. 0013-0043	06/11/1997	Summary

Common fisheries policy after the year 2002

1996/2142(INI) - 06/11/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mrs Carmen FRAGA ESTEVEZ (PPE, E) on the common fisheries policy after the year 2002, plenary only adopted one of the 64 amendments submitted. This amendment emphasized the importance of the environment and the protection of species. For the rest, the European Parliament considered that, even if the common fisheries policy is to be reworked, it must not under any circumstances disappear or be completely overturned. Parliament announced a series of general principles, the main ones being: to maintain a common fisheries policy after 2002 which treated fisheries in the same way as any other economic sector and relied on rationalization to improve yields; to make a clear distinction between non-industrial and industrial fishing; to maintain derogations from the principle of free access; to allow Member States exclusive use and management of their 12-mile zone; to involve fishermen in the review and the application and management of the common fisheries policy. Apart from strengthening technical measures, Parliament also insisted on the need to decentralize the common fisheries policy, the need to increase research, the importance of aquaculture and the specific measures which needed to be taken in various areas in order to maintain the coastal fleet. Parliament set out a number of proposals for making more rational use of resources: a flexible system needed to be implemented to minimize rejects. Capacity should be reduced on a rational and equitable basis and should concentrate on fleets which fished the most vulnerable resources. Total authorized catches (TACs) should be rationalized by dividing fishing rights between fishermen. Parliament also called for the possibility of transferring these fishing rights to be examined. Given that present controls were inefficient, they needed to be simplified and rationalized by imposing common minimum standards subject to penalties. The role of the structural policy needed to be refocused on the need to adapt the fleet to the quotas available. This called for development of the processing industries, specific measures in favour of non-industrial fleets and a more integrated approach with other policies to develop shore areas. At the external level, fisheries should benefit from the same system of requirements and compensation as that granted to other foodstuff sectors. It must also be possible to apply the principle of subsidiarity in this area by allowing bilateral fisheries agreements, with the Member States in question able to negotiate fishing opportunities and bear the cost of financial compensation themselves.