Basic information

1997/0360(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Humane trapping standards: Agreement between EC and the United States on international standards of trapping **Subject** 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PIMENTA Carlos (PPE)	21/01/1998

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	ILASKIVI Raimo (PPE)	09/01/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2113	1998-07-13

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/12/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0726	Summary
16/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/05/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
19/05/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0197/1998	
15/06/1998	Debate in Parliament		
13/07/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
13/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/08/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0360(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 228-p3-a1 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 1OOA EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 113
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/09673

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0197/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0006	19/05/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0330/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0020-0031	16/06/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0726 OJ C 032 30.01.1998, p. 0008	11/12/1997	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1998/0487
OJ L 219 07.08.1998, p. 0024 Summary

Humane trapping standards: Agreement between EC and the United States on international standards of trapping

1997/0360(CNS) - 13/07/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to conclude an International Agreement between the European Community and the USA on the observance of humane trapping standards. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 98/487/EC concerning the conclusion of an International Agreement in the form of an Agreed Minute between the European Community and the United States of America on humane trapping standards. CONTENTS: The main objectives of the agreement are to: - lay down harmonized technical rules governing the production and use of traps which allow adequate protection of the welfare of trapped animals; - facilitate trade between the parties in traps, pelts and products manufactured from species covered by the agreement. The agreement, concluded in the form of an agreed minute between the European Community and the USA, in particular lays down a timetable for testing the compliance of traps with the standards laid down with a view to certifying them and replacing non-certified traps. It also lays down a common framework with a view to the use of less cruel traps and trapping methods, which the respective competent authorities are responsible for applying (in the case of the United States, both national and tribal authorities). This framework is comparable on all points to the agreement already signed with Canada and Russia, to which this agreed minute refers throughout. More specifically, the agreement provides for: 1) thresholds and indicators by means of which to measure the degree of "welfare" of animals to be captured or killed, 2) adoption of a timetable for compliance by traps with the standards laid down in the agreement: . 3 to 5 years after the entry into force of the agreement for restraining traps, . 5 years for killing traps, 3) a ban on all traps not certified as complying within 3 years of the deadlines laid down in the timetable for compliance (however, derogations are provided for whereby certain traps which do not comply may temporarily be used, particularly with the aim of taking account of certain cultural or environmental aspects). Finally, in a letter annexed to the agreement, the United States states that the use of all leghold traps to catch ermine or muskrats will be banned 4 years after the entry into force of the agreement between the EC, Canada and Russia on humane trapping (these two species account for about 50% of all animals trapped in the United States each year). For all other species, the use of conventional metal leghold traps will be banned 6 years after the entry into force of that agreement. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the agreement will enter into force once all the necessary notifications have been made.

Humane trapping standards: Agreement between EC and the United States on international standards of trapping

1997/0360(CNS) - 16/06/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Carlos PIMENTA (PPE, P), the European Parliament rejected the international agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on humane trapping standards, taking the view that it would do nothing to end the use of cruel trapping methods and that the agreement was much weaker than that concluded with Canada and Russia (CNS97019), the period of transition required by the United States for a total ban on leghold traps was much longer than that provided for in the agreement with Canada (an immediate ban for certain target species) and its implementation was conditional (the USA made the implementation of this provision dependent on the entry into force of the EC-Canada-Russia agreement).

Humane trapping standards: Agreement between EC and the United States on international standards of trapping

1997/0360(CNS) - 11/12/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to conclude an international agreement between the Community and the USA on humane trapping standards equivalent to that concluded in 1997 between the Community, Russia and Canada. SUBSTANCE: Under Regulation (EEC) No 3254/91, the Community prohibits the introduction into the Community of pelts and manufactured goods of certain wild animal species originating in third countries unless the country in question has prohibited the use of leghold traps or uses methods that meet internationally agreed humane trapping standards. In June 1996, the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate a framework agreement on humane trapping standards with Canada, the United States and Russia. An agreement was reached in July 1997 only between the Community, Canada and Russia (see 'fiche de procédure' CNS97019). The aim of the new proposal is to conclude a similar agreement with the USA, with which no agreement has so far been concluded. As a result of the negotiations, an agreement was initialled on 03.12.1997 which, like the agreement with Canada and Russia: - provides for the adoption of harmonized humane trapping standards relating to traps for killing or catching certain wild mammals (particularly the species referred to in Regulation (EEC) No 3254/91), - lays down that communications and cooperation between the parties are to be improved in order to apply and develop these standards, - provides for trade between the parties to be facilitated. The agreement, concluded in the form of an agreed minute or understanding, in particular lays down a common framework with a view to the use of less cruel traps and trapping methods, which the respective competent authorities are responsible for applying (in the case of the United States, both national and tribal authorities). More specifically, the agreement provides for: 1) thresholds and indicators by means of which to measure the degree of 'welfare' of animals to be killed or captured, 2) adoption of a timetable for compliance by traps with the standards laid down in the agreement: .3 to 5 years after the entry into force of the agreement for restraining traps, .5 years for killing traps, 3) a ban on all traps not certified as complying within 3 years of the deadlines laid down in the timetable for compliance (however, derogations are provided for whereby certain traps which do not comply may temporarily be used, particularly with the aim of taking account of certain cultural or environmental aspects). In a letter annexed to the agreement, the United States states that the use of all leghold traps to catch ermine or muskrats will be banned 4 years after the entry into force of the agreement between the EC, Canada and Russia on humane trapping (these two species account for about 50% of all animals trapped in the United States). For all other species, the use of conventional metal leghold traps will be banned 6 years after the entry into force of that agreement.