Basic information

1997/2304(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Fisheries products in the Union: responsability, partnership, competitiveness **Subject** 3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	PECH Fisheries	MCCARTIN John Joseph (PPE)	21/01/1998
Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Fisheries	2105	1998-05-08

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/12/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0719	Summary
16/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/05/1998	Debate in Council		
25/05/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
25/05/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0204/1998	
18/06/1998	Debate in Parliament		
19/06/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2304(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/09624

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0204/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0007	25/05/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0386/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0280-0292	19/06/1998	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1997)0719	16/12/1997	Summary
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	**Document type**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0798/1998 OJ C 235 27.07.1998, p. 0056	27/05/1998	

Fisheries products in the Union: responsability, partnership, competitiveness

1997/2304(COS) - 16/12/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: To bring about an extensive debate with all the parties concerned with a view to revision of the Community market in fisheries products. On the basis of this debate the Commission will adopt measures and make proposals in this area before the end of 1998. Responses to this document are expected before 30 June1998. SUBSTANCE: the Commission communication considers that future action in the fisheries sector should centre on three main objectives: (1) responsibility: the fishing industry is to be encouraged to take greater responsibility in managing the market and fish stocks to ensure sustainability; (2) partnership: there must be closer cooperation between all the operators in the production and distribution chain; (3) competitiveness: in view of the very competitive nature of the world market in fisheries products, only the most competitive producers in the EU will in future have a sECUre place on the international market; competitiveness must therefore be encouraged. The communication also aims to respond to the concerns expressed at international level, to ensure that responsible fishing goes hand-in-hand with responsible trade in fisheries products. It also points out the need to take into account all the factors which affect fisheries markets in Europe, including trade policy, consumer information and safety and improvement in product quality. In this context the Commission identifies a number of measures concerned with changes to the law and other measures to promote a more integrated market based on quality: - adoption of new rules on the minimum size of fish sold within the EU, - making certain adjustments to the conditions for recognition of producer organizations and encouraging inter-sectoral organizations and transnational producer organizations, - setting stricter conditions for intervention buying of unsold fish, to reduce the quantity of the limited resources which are thus destroyed, - adopting measures to further encourage contractual sales between producer organizations and the food industry, - adopting a Community 'demonstration programme' aiming to show how information technology can help to improve transparency on the market by helping to effectively concentrate supply and demand, - granting increased financial support for quality systems and promotion campaigns.

Fisheries products in the Union: responsability, partnership, competitiveness

1997/2304(COS) - 19/06/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr John Joseph McCARTIN (PPE, Irl.) on the future for the market in fisheries products, the European Parliament urges that producer organizations be given funding in recognition of their role in centralizing supply and balancing supply and demand. It calls on the Commission to consider whether the introduction of financial compensation for voluntary reductions of fishing effort could be a good way of compensating ship owners and fishermen for the purpose of better resource management. Parliament takes the view that the possibility of relying on the market forces for the matching of supply and demand, rather than steering prices and intervention, should be investigated. In any event, market policy must be seen in its proper CFP content and any contradictions between its various strands should be eliminated. It also calls for the introduction of storage premium mechanisms to accompany withdrawal aid. It also considers that withdrawal/destruction methods must be reduced and that measures should instead be taken to enhance markets other than the market in fresh fish. It also expresses concern regarding the future of local producers and stresses the importance of small fishing fleets. Noting the advantages of catch plans as an instrument for achieving greater regularity of supply, Parliament calls on the Commission to indicate how it intends to reduce withdrawals. In addition to funding for catch plans, Parliament considers that producer organizations should receive funding to enable them to provide technical assistance to producers (research and measures to promote selective fishing activities, the development of instruments to improve quality on board vessels and of communications equipment). Given the importance of controls, Parliament puts forward the possibility of allowing fisheries products to be landed only at designated ports equipped to carry out the necessary controls. Similarly concerning product quality, Parliament considers that a close link must be established within distribution networks in order to ensure product quality and facilitate certification. It calls on the Commission to ensure that reference prices can be maintained together with safeguard clauses as an emergency response to any serious market disturbances. Measures must also be taken to protect fishermen and the processing industry in the Community from any form of unfair competition particularly from third country suppliers who are able to sell at lower prices since their wages are lower, their working conditions less healthy and the methods used incompatible with Community fisheries resource conservation requirements. In this connection, Parliament opposes a reduction or possible abolition of customs duties on products from third countries and calls for reciprocity should such steps be taken. It urges that, in the context of trade with third countries, reference be made to the problem of catches in international waters by vessels flying flags of convenience. In conclusion Parliament urges that future legislation reforming the common organization of fisheries take account of the five following aspects which are essential for its functioning. - an internal information system allowing closer monitoring of market developments including, if necessary, a list of specifies most sensitive to price fluctuations. - suitable health inspection procedures to ensure the quality and safety of processed products in the Community (one proposal by Parliament is the use of identification tags) and the creation of a Community reference laboratory; - compliance with minimum legal requirements regarding the labelling of fisheries products to ensure that consumers are better informed. - public funding for the promotion of regional fisheries products complying with quality specifications as certified by an independent authority. - support measures for Community production in the light of current market trends where it is necessary to distinguish between the situation with regard to fresh products, frozen products or products intended for processing. Finally, Parliament calls on the Commission to assess regularly the functioning of the market in fisheries products and to identify existing links between marketing measures, resources and monitoring.