Basic information

2001/2055(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Application of the precautionary principle and multiannual arrangements for setting TACs **Subject** 3.15.05 Fish catches, import tariff quotas	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	KATIFORIS Giorgos (PSE)	23/01/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Fisheries	2344	2001-04-25
Fisheries	2320	2000-12-14

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
01/12/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0803	Summary
14/12/2000	Debate in Council		
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/04/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
20/11/2001	Vote in committee		
20/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0407/2001	
12/12/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0675/2001	Summary
12/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/07/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2055(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/5/14128

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0407/2001	20/11/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0675/2001 OJ C 177 25.07.2002, p. 0081-0139 E	12/12/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0803	01/12/2000	Summary

Application of the precautionary principle and multiannual arrangements for setting TACs

2001/2055(COS) - 12/12/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Giorgos KATIFORIS (PES, GR).

Application of the precautionary principle and multiannual arrangements for setting TACs

2001/2055(COS) - 01/12/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to apply the precautionary principle and mulitannual arrangements for setting TACs. CONTENT : this paper focuses on the application of the precautionalry approach to a specific problem, the setting of TACs and the rate of exploitation in a single-species fishery management context. Firstly, it should be noted that the scope for applying the precautionary principle extends far beyond fisheries. The subject has been reviewed in general. While the scope has been deliberately restricted, the analysis that follows does deal with a key problem of the CFP. The application of 'precaution' in regional fishery organisations and in fisheries agreements, both as a principle and in the way it is implemented, tallies with the conception of the precautionary principle as reflected in the Commission Communication. A dominant feature of resource conservation policy under the CFP to date has been the annual pattern of the end of year negotiations to set the TACs for the year ahead. The inevitability of this pattern has given rise to drawbacks that have worsened over the years. Moreover, the annual pattern of decision-making has resulted de facto in a dilatory policy of stock management that has failed to safeguard or restore stocks. Since the problem is not specific to the CFP, the precautionary principle has been developed in response to such difficulties. The first section of this paper sets out to throw light on then on this topic. The second part broadens the discussion to include the introduction of multiannual management frameworks, as the mulitannual dimension is necessary not alone to avert the risk of disaster but also to rationalise the management of resources. The third section focuses on the links between the precautionary approach and the multiannual decision-making mechanisms for the TACS. The final section outlines the approach required to provide the CFP with these multiannual decision-making arrangements, focusing on the precautionary approach as well as other factors, starting with the industry's concern to prevent as far

as possible over-rapid fluctuations in the TACs. To conclude, the report stipulates that the conditions are now ripe for making real progress and that initial discussions on the precautionary approach have brought about a general awareness of the dangers in the conventional way of determining TACs. Although it could have been better adapted through further consultation, the scientific evidence currently available has paved the way to a multiannual approach. Lastly, there is no need to wait until discussions on the reform of the CFP are concluded before putting such arrangements in place, because the matter is urgent, but also and especially because a better mechanism for determining TACs is needed in any case.

Application of the precautionary principle and multiannual arrangements for setting TACs

2001/2055(COS) - 25/04/2001

The Council welcomes the Commission's initiative in presenting to the Council and the European Parliament a Communication on the application of the precautionary principle and multi-annual arrangements in the fisheries sector. The Council approves the general line as set out in the Commission's Communication and considers that risk assessment must be based on the best available scientific advice, which should be continuously improved. The Council takes the view that application of the precautionary principle is an essential element within the Common Fisheries Policy in ensuring sustainability of fish stocks and hence of fisheries themselves and is a necessary part of the integration of environmental considerations into the Common Fisheries Policy.