Basic information

2003/0157(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
EC/Morocco fisheries agreement: conversion of vessels and fishermen, extending deadlines Amending Regulation (EC) No 2561/2001 2001/0163(CNS) **Subject** 3.15.15.04 Fisheries agreements with Maghreb and Mediterranean countries **Geographical area** Morocco	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	MIGUÉLEZ RAMOS Rosa (PSE)	18/08/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2555	2003-12-17

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/07/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0437	Summary
01/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary

24/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0407/2003	
03/12/2003	Debate in Parliament		
04/12/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0535/2003	Summary
17/12/2003	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0157(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation (EC) No 2561/2001 2001/0163(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 036
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/19935

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0407/2003	24/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0535/2003 OJ C 089 14.04.2004, p. 0030-0096 E	04/12/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0437	24/07/2003	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1397/2003 OJ C 032 05.02.2004, p. 0066-0066	29/10/2003	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Regulation 2003/2325 OJ L 345 31.12.2003, p. 0025-0026	Summary

EC/Morocco fisheries agreement: conversion of vessels and fishermen, extending deadlines

2003/0157(CNS) - 24/07/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to amend Council Regulation 2561/2001/EC aiming to promote the conversion of fishing vessels and of fishermen that were, up to 1999, dependent on the fishing agreement with Morocco. CONTENT : the agreement on the relations as regards sea fishing between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco expired on 30 November 1999; at that date, more than 400 fishing vessels and about 4 300 fishermen were forced to stop their activities. Council Regulation 2561/2001/EC aiming to promote the conversion of vessels and of fishermen that were, up to 1999, dependent on the fishing agreement with Morocco introduces a number of derogations from certain provisions of Regulation 2792/1999/EC laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector. The necessary conversion is of exceptional magnitude and does not result from a deliberate choice by the stakeholders. In view of this array of constraints, the Council is justified in adopting exemption conditions, more favourable than the standard conditions, for a limited period of time. It has also been necessary to facilitate the permanent cessation of activity of the vessels, whether by demolition or by transfer to a third country, including within the framework of joint enterprises; it is also appropriate to facilitate the replacement of fishing gear for the permanent conversion towards other fishing activities, either in Community waters or in the waters of third countries with which the Community has concluded fisheries agreements. Concerning the fishermen, it is certain that a significant number of them will be unable to find a job in the fishing industry, and the Community should contribute to their reclassification or if necessary help them to stop working. In this regard, Regulation 2792/1999 makes it possible to allocate public appropriations, with FIFG part-financing, to the implementation of individual or collective social plans for their conversion from sea fishing. Regulation 2561/1999/EC provides that where a fishermen is paid an individual lump sum, the maximum eligible cost referred to in Regulation 2792/1999/EC is to be increased by 20%. Regulation 2792/1999/EC states that individual lump sums may be paid to fishermen provided the fishing vessel on which they were employed has permanently stopped its activities. However, the fishermen covered by the Morocco specific measure did not themselves take the decision to permanently stop the fishing activity of the vessel on which they were employed and may find themselves unemployed in the same way as fishermen whose vessel has permanently ceased its activity following conversion of the vessel to another activity in Community waters or other fishing methods. In the interests of equal treatment of fishermen and in order to cover the largest possible number, the rules restricting the grant of individual lump sums exclusively to fishermen whose vessel has permanently stopped its activities should be abolished. According to Regulation 2561/2001/EC, fishermen are eligible for individual lump sums provided the Member States concerned notify the Commission, no later than three months after the entry into force of that Regulation, of the list of names of the fishermen meeting the conditions referred to, namely fishermen to whom compensation was granted, during 2000 and 2001, under Regulation2792/1999/EC, owing to the non-renewal of the fishing agreement with Morocco, for at least a six-month cumulative period of temporary cessation of activity. The Member States concerned all sent their lists of names to the Commission within the deadline laid down in the Regulation. The derogation rules provided for in Regulation 2561/2001/EC apply only to premiums and public aid granted under an administrative decision taken between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2003 by the managing and paying authorities operating in the context of Structural Fund assistance to fisheries in Spain and in Portugal during 2000-06. The final date for eligibility of the expenditure is fixed at 31 December 2003 and the last date for submission to the Commission of the request for payment of the balance is 30 June 2004. For the purposes of the said derogation, the above-mentioned dates must also be amended by twelve months, only for the grant of individual lump sums. So that the proposed derogations can be applied, the reference date for taking account of the period of unemployment should be set at 1 January 2002, instead of being fixed in relation to the date on which the premium is paid. If the beneficiary has taken up work as a fisherman again within one year from 1 January 2002, the sum paid will be reimbursed pro rata temporis. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : The derogations proposed in this draft Regulation do not require any supplementary Community budgetary funding.

EC/Morocco fisheries agreement: conversion of vessels and fishermen, extending deadlines

2003/0157(CNS) - 04/12/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Rosa MIGUELEZ RAMOS (PES, E), making three amendments to the Commission's proposal. (Please see the summary dated 24/11/03).

EC/Morocco fisheries agreement: conversion of vessels and fishermen, extending deadlines

2003/0157(CNS) - 17/12/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : to amend Council Regulation 2561/2001/EC aiming to promote the conversion of fishing vessels and of fishermen that were, up to 1999, dependent on the fishing agreement with Morocco. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Regulation 2325/2003/EC amending Regulation 2561/2001/EC aiming to promote the conversion of fishing vessels and of fishermen that were, up to 1999, dependent on the fishing agreement with Morocco. CONTENT : the Council unanimously adopted a Regulation amending Regulation 2561/2001/EC aiming to promote the conversion of fishing vessels and of fishermen that were, up to 1999, dependent on the fishing agreement with Morocco. This Regulation repeals the provisions stipulating that individual lump sums may be paid to fishermen only if the vessel on which they were employed has permanently ceased its activities. The agreement on the relations as regards sea fishing between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco expired on 30 November 1999; at that date, more than 400 fishing vessels and about 4 300 fishermen were forced to stop their activities. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 03/01/2004.