Basic information

2003/2034(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Fisheries: integrated framework for partnership agreements with third countries **Subject** 3.15.15 Fisheries agreements and cooperation 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	CUNHA Arlindo (PPE-DE)	23/01/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
DEVE Development and Cooperation	VALENCIANO Elena (PSE)	21/01/2003

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2481	2003-01-27

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/12/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0637	Summary
27/01/2003	Debate in Council		Summary
13/03/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/09/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
09/09/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0303/2003	

08/10/2003	Debate in Parliament		
09/10/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0431/2003	Summary
09/10/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2034(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/5/19305

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0303/2003	09/09/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0431/2003	09/10/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0637	23/12/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0583/2003 OJ C 208 03.09.2003, p. 0035-0038	14/05/2003	

Fisheries: integrated framework for partnership agreements with third countries

2003/2034(INI) - 09/10/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Arlindo CUNHA (EPP-ED, Portugal) on the Commission's communication. (Please see the summary of 09/09/03.) Parliament welcomed the Commission proposal and insisted that agreements, although of a commercial nature, must respect sustainable development of the fishing industry of the developing country concerned. The Commission was urged to make negotiations on the renewal of fisheries partnership agreements dependent upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence that monies paid under the previous agreement for targeted measures have been spent as intended. Development cooperation policy in this field entails promoting developing countries' capacity to exploit their fishery resources, enhance local added value and obtain a fair price for access rights for EU fleets to their

EEZs, while accepting the need to protect the interests of the EU's fisheries. Parliament felt that these agreements should contain measures to protect small-scale indigenous fisheries, to promote the landing of fish locally and require access to be dependent on the use of selective fishing methods. The Commission must ask that the third countries involved apply to all other nations' distant water fleets operating in their waters the same set of rules which it applies to the Community fleet, respecting the obligations committed to in multilateral agreements, in particular the fight against illegal fishing. Parliament went on to ask the Commission to inform Parliament on the negotiating mandate which the Council grants the Commission. Parliament should be supplied with annual reports on the degree of implementation of the agreements, the use of funds for targeted measures and standardised evaluation reports that should meet the requirements as laid down by the Fisheries Council of October 1997 so as to respect the Commission's accountability to Parliament. Finally the Commission is asked for aid for implementation by third countries of the FAO's international action plan for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing one of the main priorities when concluding future agreements with third countries.

Fisheries: integrated framework for partnership agreements with third countries

2003/2034(INI) - 27/01/2003

The Council took note of the Commission’s presentation of the communication on an integrated framework for fisheries partnership agreements with third countries and of some general observations by delegations. The Council instructs the Permanent Committee of representatives to examine the communication in detail.

The Spanish, French, Portuguese, Dutch and Italian delegations recalled the importance of the Council Conclusions on this issue adopted on 30 October 1997. The Spanish and Portuguese delegations requested that full use of the fishing possibilities could be made within the fishing agreements. The German delegation pointed out that the sustainability of fishing resources and an improved financial involvement of the private sector were two key issues to be addressed. The Italian and the Greek delegations favoured the approach of the Commission although they made it clear that improving partnerships with third countries should not be made at the expense of commercial aspects. The Swedish delegation supported the communication presented but reiterated its requirements concerning the costs occurred by the fishing possibilities and asked for improved co-ordination with Community policies on development and aid.

Commissioner Fischler reminded the delegations that a common view was shared by the Council and the Commission on the need for the EC to have sustainable resources both in Community waters and in other seas. He also stressed the need to promote a high seas fleet in view of the size of the EC fleet and indicated that the provisions of the Communication would promote investments, transfer of technical know-how in order to assist third countries to develop their management of fishing resources. He emphasised that shipowners’ fees are considered as part of the overall financial contribution granted under a fisheries partnership agreement and must reflect a fair price for access to fishing rights.

The Communication, having noted that the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy is an essential component of this policy, proposes adjusting the agreements with third countries in order to ensure sustainable development of fisheries based on scientific data. The Commission also proposes to conduct sustainability impact assessment for the negotiation of new fisheries partnership agreements.

Fisheries: integrated framework for partnership agreements with third countries

2003/2034(INI) - 23/12/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a communication from the Commission on an integrated framework for Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPA) with third countries. CONTENT : the European Commission has issued a Communication on ways to improve the Fisheries Agreements concluded with third countries, particularly with developing coastal states. The Commission proposes that EU fisheries bilateral relations move from access agreements to "Partnership Agreements" which contribute to responsible fishing in the mutual interest of the Parties concerned. These Partnership agreements will ensure both that the interests of the EU distant-water fleet are protected and that the conditions to achieve sustainable fisheries in the waters of the partner concerned are strengthened. This Communication is part of the Commission proposals on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. The Commission believes that the approach proposed in this document should be progressively implemented. The agreements targeted here are those which involve the payment of a financial compensation in return for access to identified fishing possibilities for EU vessels in the waters under the jurisdiction of a third coastal state. It is felt that it is necessary to widen the scope of the EU financial contribution. This contribution mainly covers expenditure linked to management costs, the scientific assessment of fish stocks, fisheries management, control and monitoring of fishing activities, as well as expenditure for the follow-up and evaluation of the agreement In future, this contribution will be justified by the mutual interest of the two parties to invest in a sustainable fisheries policy and not just as a payment for access rights to fishing possibilities. The EU financial contribution should be regarded as an investment for the improvement of responsible and rational fishing. As these agreements are predominantly concluded with developing countries, the Commission believes that a policy dialogue in the fisheries field is necessary to help our partners develop a fisheries policy that will improve their capacity to achieve sustainable fisheries and contribute to development objectives. It is important to maintain the quality, diversity and availability of fisheries resources for food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. To this end the issues to be identified include the assessment of the national policy for the fishing industry defined by the coastal state, the needs expressed by the partner for the sustainable development of its fishing sector, the share of the surplus that the coastal state is prepared to allocate to EU fishermen, the possible threat to the environment with a view to adopting appropriate remedial action and the concerns of civil society. Whenever possible, in the mutual interest of the parties involved, the FPAs would support measures promoting the creation of joint enterprises, transfers of know-how and technologies and investment in management capacity for the benefit of the fishing industry in accordance with the objectives and guidelines of the co-operation partnership agreement between the EU and the third country concerned.