Basic information

2003/2104(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Common fisheries policy: action plan 2003-2005 for uniform implementation, common inspection structure **Subject** 3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	FIGUEIREDO Ilda (GUE/NGL)	23/04/2003

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2524	2003-07-22

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
21/03/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2003)0130	Summary
05/06/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/07/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
02/10/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
02/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0331/2003	
23/10/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0469/2003	Summary
23/10/2003	Debate in Parliament		
23/10/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2104(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/5/19621

Common fisheries policy: action plan 2003-2005 for uniform implementation, common inspection structure

2003/2104(INI) - 23/10/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament has adopted the report drafted by Ilda FIGUEIREDO (GUE/NGL, P) by 82 votes in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions, on the Commission communication 'Towards uniform and effective implementation of the common fisheries policy'. Parliament stresses that the experience and training arising from fisheries monitoring missions offer a solid basis for the effective implementation of fisheries monitoring, and believes that the present set-up should serve as the starting-point for action to improve cooperation in implementing the Community's inspection and surveillance strategy. It emphasises the need for real participation of the interested parties in all stages of the policy, from conception to execution. The Parliament welcomes the notion of an action plan for short-term implementation (2003-2005), with the objectives of improving the coordination of inspection and surveillance activities at Community level, rationalising resources and setting priorities. This action plan must have an impact on those aspects requiring greater cooperation between Member States, especially in international areas governed by regional organisations to which the EU is a contracting party, and that the efforts of crossborder producer organisations in particular could make a contribution to this. Attention is drawn to the crucial role of the national authorities in the monitoring and evaluation of inspection and surveillance activities, on the basis of shared criteria and priorities and developments in fishery activities; calls for the results to be made available to other Member States and the Commission on the basis of prior joint agreements. The necessary proposal to introduce a code of conduct for inspection, on the basis of dialogue with the sector and the national authorities, is welcomed. The Commission's intention to submit a proposal for the creation of a joint inspection structure, in the context of establishing a Community fisheries control agency with a view to ensuring coordination of national inspection and surveillance resources, is welcomed by the Parliament. Moreover, Parliament calls for a Community office to be set up in the framework of the Commission proposal, with a view to ensuring more effective monitoring. It insists that the Commission must, in coordination with the Member States, undertake a feasibility study, on as broad a basis as possible, with regard to establishing an organisational structure for Community inspection and surveillance, which should include a comparative cost-benefit analysis and consideration of better use of national resources and the practical implications in terms of material, financial and human resources. Lastly, the Commission is called upon to take an active part in monitoring and funding the monitoring tasks carried out in the international waters administered by the international fisheries organisations, in order to coordinate and increase the efficiency of the monitoring of fishing carried out by the European Union in these fishing grounds.

Common fisheries policy: action plan 2003-2005 for uniform implementation, common inspection structure

2003/2104(INI) - 21/03/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to set out proposals for an Action Plan regarding enforcement of the Common Fisheries policy (CFP) and a proposal for a Joint Inspection Structure (JIS) at Community level. CONTENT : implementation of the CFP requires a sound organisational inspection and enforcement structure, sufficient means of inspection and surveillance and an appropriate strategy for the co-ordinated deployment of these means. The Commission proposes an Action Plan to be implemented from 2003, to be carried out over the next two years. The initiative launched by the Action Plan will be carried forward and expanded on a permanent basis through the development of a Joint Inspection Structure (JIS). Setting up the JIS will take more time, as all the issues involved will need to be carefully addressed. The Commission intends to carry out a feasibility study in co-operation with the Member States on the JIS. The Commission will come forward with a legislative proposal on the JIS for adoption by the Council in 2004. With regard to the Action Plan, the Actions are as follows: Action point 1: The aim is to prioritise the use of existing means of inspection and surveillance in selected fisheries or stocks. The latter are: - demersal fisheries in regions 2 and 3; - highly migratory species in the Mediterranean; - cod, herring and sprat fisheries in ICES divisions III b, c and d; - industrial and pelagic fisheries in regions 1, 2 and 3; - landings of IUU vessels in Community ports. Action Point 2: In order to enhance the effectiveness of inspection activities the Commission will adopt regulations laying down specific monitoring programmes for the relevant fisheries or stocks and establish: - common inspection and surveillance priorities; - benchmarks for inspection and surveillance of fishing activities; - checks to be made by inspectors. Member States should adopt the necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of specific monitoring programmes, particularly as regards the human and material resources required. Member States should ensure that their competent authorities will achieve the common inspection priorities and benchmarks. Action Point 3: In order to enhance transparency of inspection activities, the Commission will periodically review the effectiveness of inspection and surveillance activities in cooperation with national control experts. Action Point 4: The aim is rationalised data recording and reporting to authorities. Working in co-operation with the Commission and third countries, Member States will adopt legislation requiring the setting up of pilot projects in order to develop and test electronic reporting devices and logbooks. Action point 5: In order to increase the effectiveness of inspection through making relevant information accessible, Member States will appoint co-ordinators to provide the relevant information to inspectors from other Member States. Action Point 6: In order to guarantee confidentiality of information concerning individual vessels or individual operators, the Commission will review national proceduresconcerning accessibility of individual

data. Where needed, it will introduce harmonised minimum requirements if necessary by adopting legislation. Action Point 7: Working in co-operation with national authorities, the Commission will review operational communication procedures and, where needed, will introduce uniform communication routines. Action Point 8: The aim is to improve the effectiveness of follow-up of infringements committed by vessels flying the flag of another Member State or third country. The Commission will compile and make available to other parties a list of national co-ordinators capable of responding at short notice to requests for information on the characteristics of vessels flying the flag of the Member State concerned. Member States must ensure that the co-ordinator can act on behalf of all the relevant competent authorities. Action Point 9: Member States should adopt the necessary measures to facilitate systematic exchange of inspectors between their competent authorities, notably as regards inspection and surveillance of transboundary fishing activities, including language training for national inspectors. The Commission will review the information on irregularities and non-compliance which it received from third parties, on an annual basis, together with representatives of the Fishing industry. Action Point 10: To ensure fair inspection, the Commission will compose a draft code of conduct for inspection to be discussed with national inspectors and the fishing industry by mid 2003. Action Point 11: The Commission will provide regular feedback of inspection information to national control experts. With regard to the establishment of a JIS, the Commission proposes to proceed on the following basis: - adoption by the Commission of Community inspection and surveillance strategies, notably in accordance with Art. 34(c) of Regulation 2847/93/EEC; - pooling of national means of inspection and surveillance by Member States; - deployment of pooled means by a Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA). The Commission will present a detailed feasibility study by the end of the year. The CFCA will not change the responsibility of Member States for control and enforcement of the rules of the CFP. The basic function of the CFCA consists of co-ordination of deployment of national means of inspection and, where appropriate, additional contracted means of inspection for the purpose of joint inspection and surveillance of fishing activities in accordance with the rules of the CFP. It has to ensure co-ordinated deployment of national means in accordance with Community inspection strategies setting priorities and benchmarks. This function includes the following tasks: - planning the deployment of means of inspection and surveillance pooled by Member States; - organising deployment of means of inspection and surveillance. This includes instructions concerning the geographical areas, the stocks, fisheries and the fleets to be surveyed and inspected in a given period. Organising does not mean the selection of individual fishing vessels for inspection. Planning the deployment of means of inspection and surveillance will include forming multinational teams for inspection at sea and ashore. Agreements should be concluded annually between the CFCA and each national competent authority with regard to the pooling of means of inspection and surveillance. The CFCA will ensure that inspection and surveillance activities of national authorities are fully co-ordinated. The JIS is allocated EUR 1 million in the financial statement.