Basic information

2006/2110(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Fishing industry: improving the economic situation **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds 3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas 3.15.08 Fishing enterprises, fishermen, working conditions on board 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	GUERREIRO Pedro (GUE/NGL)	19/04/2006

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2724	2006-04-25

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	BORG Joe

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/03/2006	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2006)0103	Summary
25/04/2006	Debate in Council		Summary
18/05/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/08/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
12/09/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0266/2006	

27/09/2006	Debate in Parliament		
28/09/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0390/2006	Summary
28/09/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
28/09/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2110(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/6/36462

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE374.267	29/05/2006	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE376.391	30/06/2006	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0266/2006	12/09/2006	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0390/2006	28/09/2006	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2006)0103	09/03/2006	Summary

Fishing industry: improving the economic situation

2006/2110(INI) - 25/04/2006

The Council held an exchange of views on a Communication from the Commission on improving the economic situation in the fishing industry.

Several delegations asked for a simplification of the procedure for granting state aids and suggested amending the legislative framework in line with the adoption of the Regulation establishing the new European Fisheries Fund (EFF). Some delegations insisted on the need to ban aids that may serve to increase fishing capacity or engine power, and to develop incentives for decommissioning vessels. Other delegations, stressing the considerable rise in fuel prices and its negative impact on fishermen's incomes, asked for a temporary and exceptional increase of the de minimis aid and for a relaxing of the existing guidelines on state aids.

Fishing industry: improving the economic situation

2006/2110(INI) - 28/09/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report by Pedro **GUERREIRO** (GUE/NGL, PT) in response to the Commission communication on improving the economic situation in the fishing industry. (Please see the summary of 28/08/2006.)

Fishing industry: improving the economic situation

2006/2110(INI) - 09/03/2006 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: Commission Communication on improving the economic situation in the fishing industry.

CONTENT: the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, increased fuel prices, stagnating market prices and lower fishing yields, have all contributed to real hardship within the EU's fishing community. In this Communication, the Commission has identified the sources of these economic difficulties and suggests way in which these challenges can be addressed firstly, from a short-term perspective and secondly from a more long-term perspective.

Short-term rescue and restructuring: The principle means for addressing, on a short-term basis, the challenges facing the fishing industry would be through providing state aid to enterprises under the "Rescue and Restructuring Guidelines". This rescue aid has been defined as a short-term initiative and can be used to keep an ailing enterprise financially afloat for the time needed to work out a restructuring and liquidation plan. Such rescue aid, which may not last longer than six months, must take the form a reimbursable loan or guarantee. Where the rescue aid is followed by an approved restructuring plan, the rescue aid can be repaid with support received by the firm in the form of restructuring aid. Other sources of aid include measures for the modernisation of equipment. The exact requirements are set out in the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) Regulation. The Commission also states that it is ready to examine national "rescue and restructuring aid schemes" for SME's set up in the Member States. As far as direct aid for fuel costs are concerned, the paper remarks that a "guarantee scheme" could be considered, whereby money paid in by the industry in favourable times could be repaid as compensation in the event of sudden increases in operating costs – such as fuel prices rises. However, such a scheme could only be approved if it were to provide guarantees of reimbursement of all public aid under commercial conditions, which in the current economic climate seems very unlikely.

Longer-term measures and initiatives: The long term prospects for the industry can only be assured in the context of recovered fish stocks and sustainable fishing practices. This can be achieved by improving fisheries management through tools such as moving toward "maximum sustainable yields" or MSY; better economic management of fisheries; improving the governance of the fisheries policy; matching fishing effort to available resources and improved enforcement and control. Other long term objectives include: stepping up the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, preparing a code of conduct on fish trade in the EU as well as promoting research on fuel efficient and friendly fishing methods.

The report concludes by noting that there is no easy solution to the current difficulties faced by the EU's fishing industry. It is, however, possible to inject new life into the fishing industry.