


Procedure file

Basic information		
AVC - Assent procedure (historic)	1995/0306(AVC)	Procedure completed
Fisheries agreement EC/Morocco: cooperation agreement 1995-1999		
Subject 3.15.15.04 Fisheries agreements with Maghreb and Mediterranean countries 6.40.05.02 Relations with the countries of the Great Maghreb and Maghreb		
Geographical area Morocco		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		23/11/1995
		PPE ARIAS CAÑETE Miguel	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		24/11/1995
		PSE JÖNS Karin	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1979	12/12/1996
	General Affairs	1903	26/02/1996
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1893	07/12/1995

Key events			
28/11/1995	Initial legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0608	
26/02/1996	Legislative proposal published	12358/1995	Summary
29/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/03/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
20/03/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0085/1996	
16/04/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
17/04/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0171/1996	Summary
12/12/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
12/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0306(AVC)
Procedure type	AVC - Assent procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 043; EC before Amsterdam E 228-p3-a2; Treaty of Accession ES, PT I 155-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/07676

Documentation gateway

Initial legislative proposal	COM(1995)0608	28/11/1995	EC	
Document attached to the procedure	B4-0027/1996	18/01/1996	EP	
Legislative proposal	12358/1995	26/02/1996	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0085/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0005	20/03/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0171/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0085-0094	17/04/1996	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Regulation 1997/150 OJ L 030 31.01.1997, p. 0001 Summary

Fisheries agreement EC/Morocco: cooperation agreement 1995-1999

OBJECTIVE: conclusion of an Agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco, laying down conditions for the fishing activities of the EC fleet in Moroccan waters for a period of 4 years. SUBSTANCE: The Fisheries Agreement signed by the parties on 13 November 1995 was concluded for a period of 4 years, without mid-term review, in order to ensure a degree of stability for the fishing opportunities of the Community fleet. For the first year these totalled 64,712 GRT including: - 30,212 GRT for cephalopod trawlers, - 11,200 GRT for shrimp trawlers, - 11,350 GRT for longliners. In addition to these fishing opportunities 27 tuna boats will be licensed with no limit on tonnage. The adjustments to fishing opportunities are spread over the four years of the Agreement on the basis of local fishery resources and the requirements of the Community fleet. In return, Morocco will receive Community financial compensation of ECU 355 million over 4 years, payable in 4 decreasing annual instalments. In addition to this financial compensation, the Community will provide over a period of four years the following financial support: - ECU 121 m to ensure that undertakings as regards controls and cooperation are honoured; - ECU 16 m for the financing of scientific and technical fisheries development programmes; - ECU 8 m for the training of seamen. At the same time: - improvements have been made to specific categories of fishing (in particular by transfers of fishing efforts between categories and by the extension of the fishing zone for certain fish species, etc.); - cooperation on controls has been strengthened (by establishing the status of the scientific observer and by a pilot scheme for the continuous monitoring of vessels by satellite); - socio-economic cooperation has been stepped up for the joint development of the Community and Moroccan fishing sectors (inclusion of mandatory and optional requirements for the landing of catches in Moroccan ports, the improvement of Moroccan harbour infrastructure and the modernisation of inshore fishing by means of financial assistance).?

Fisheries agreement EC/Morocco: cooperation agreement 1995-1999

The Committee finally adopted the report by Miguel ARIAS CANETE (EPP, SP) on the agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector

between the EC and the Kingdom of Morocco. The vote was unanimous, with one abstention. The report which has been ready since last November, when the agreement was initialled by the Commission, could only now be adopted, following the receipt of the formal request from Council for Parliament's assent. Members were generally pleased that the chosen legal base was indeed Article 228 (3) of the Treaty, which provides for the assent procedure in cases where Parliament is required to state its opinion on agreements with important budgetary implications for the Community. The procedure allows for a simple 'yes' or 'no', without any possibility of amendment. The report will now go to plenary during the April session in Strasbourg, where it will be adopted or rejected by a majority of the votes cast. The Committee was less happy however, with the timing of Parliament's consultation. Despite the good will of both Commission and Council over the last few months to keep the Parliament informed of developments, this important agreement provides yet another example of the inadequacy of the current Treaty provisions for democratic control in this significant sector. For this reason, one of the key demands put forward by the Committee in the context of its opinion on Parliament's strategy for the forthcoming IGC, is that not only should the assent procedure be systematically applied to all international agreements, but that the EP should be adequately kept informed and consulted in sufficient time to allow it to make a real impact on the decision-making process. With regard to the content of the present accord, members felt that while the new arrangements involved increased financial compensation for Morocco and some difficulties regard vessels targeting black hake, the overall compromise was acceptable. ?

Fisheries agreement EC/Morocco: cooperation agreement 1995-1999

The rapporteur, Mr Arias Cañete (EPP, E), referred to the reduction in fishing opportunities for the Community fleet provided for under the terms of the agreement, while at the same time focusing on the socio-economic impact of the agreement and the high level of financial compensation involved (ECU 500 million over 4 years). The rapporteur was critical of the fact that Parliament had only been consulted late in the day; however, he welcomed the good level of interinstitutional cooperation and the use of the assent procedure, in accordance with the process outlined in the second paragraph of Article 228(3), which was the first time such a measure had been used for an international fisheries agreement; finally, he stressed that the Community would henceforth need to focus on the various problems affecting those regions and communities that were dependent on the fishing industry. Commissioner Bonino referred to the difficult nature of the negotiations and described the agreement as satisfactory and well-balanced. She accepted that Parliament had been consulted somewhat late, but said that the Commission had made efforts to keep Parliament informed of developments. Mrs Bonino concluded by stating that it did not make economic sense to be 100% dependent on fishing in third-country waters.

Fisheries agreement EC/Morocco: cooperation agreement 1995-1999

In adopting the report by Mr ARIAS CANETE (PPE,E), Parliament gave its assent to the conclusion of the cooperation agreement on sea fisheries between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco. ?

Fisheries agreement EC/Morocco: cooperation agreement 1995-1999

OBJECTIVE: conclusion of an Agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco and of a Protocol laying down conditions for the fishing activities of the EC fleet in Moroccan waters for the period from 1 December 1995 to 30 November 1999. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 150/97 on the conclusion of an Agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco and laying down provisions for its implementation. SUBSTANCE: the Fisheries Agreement and Protocol initialled between the Parties on 13 November 1995 was concluded for a period of four years from 1 December 1995, without mid-term review, in order to ensure a degree of stability for fishing opportunities for the Community fleet. For the first year these totalled 64 712 GRT including: - 30 212 GRT for cephalopod trawlers, - 11 200 GRT for shrimp trawlers, - 11 350 GRT for longliners. In addition to these fishing opportunities, 27 tuna boats will be able to fish with no limit on tonnage. The adjustments to fishing opportunities are spread over the four years of the Agreement (and its Protocol) on the basis of local fishery resources and the requirements of the Community fleet. In return Morocco will receive from the Community financial compensation of ECU 355 million over four years, payable in four decreasing annual instalments: - ECU 100 m in 1996, - ECU 90 m in 1997, - ECU 85 m in 1998, - ECU 80 m in 1999. In addition to such financial compensation, the Community will provide over a period of four years the following financial support: - ECU 121 m to ensure that undertakings as regards controls and cooperation are honoured; - ECU 16 m for scientific and technical fisheries development programmes; - ECU 8 m for the training of seamen. At the same time: - improvements have been made to specific categories of fishing, in particular by transfers of fishing efforts between categories and extension of the fishing zone for certain fish species; - cooperation on controls has been strengthened, in particular by defining the status of the scientific observer and by a pilot scheme aimed at the continuous monitoring of vessels by satellite; - socio-economic cooperation has been stepped up for the joint development of Community and Moroccan fishing sectors, in particular by inclusion of both mandatory and optional requirements for the landing of catches in Moroccan ports, the improvement of Moroccan harbour infrastructure, and modernization of inshore fishing by means of financial assistance). ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Regulation enters into force on 3 February 1997, the Agreement itself entering into force at an as yet unspecified date (the General Secretariat of the Council will publish the date in due course in the Official Journal of the European Communities following the requisite reciprocal notification of the Parties.?