

# Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1996/0140(CNS) Procedure completed
Control system applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy, satellite-based vessel monitoring (amend. Regul. 2847/93/EEC)	
Subject 3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>PECH</b> Fisheries	EDN <a href="#">SOUCHET Dominique</a> <a href="#">F.C.</a>	27/06/1996
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	<a href="#">1998</a>	14/04/1997
	Fisheries	<a href="#">1983</a>	20/12/1996

Key events			
28/05/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0232	Summary
17/06/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/11/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
11/11/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0366/1996</a>	
13/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0698/1996	Summary
20/12/1996	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1983</a>	
14/04/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
14/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/0140(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure

Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 043
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(1996)0232</a> <a href="#">OJ C 209 20.07.1996, p. 0007</a>	28/05/1996	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A4-0366/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 380 16.12.1996, p. 0004</a>	11/11/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0698/1996 <a href="#">OJ L 020 20.01.1997, p. 0366-0382</a>	13/12/1996	EP	Summary

### Additional information

European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>
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### Final act

<a href="#">Regulation 1997/686</a> <a href="#">OJ L 102 19.04.1997, p. 0001</a> Summary
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## Control system applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy, satellite-based vessel monitoring (amend. Regul. 2847/93/EEC)

**OBJECTIVE:** the proposal to amend the regulation establishing a control system applicable to the CFP is designed to ensure that the Member States establish satellite-based systems to monitor the position of fishing vessels. **CONTENT:** . In order to curb the over-exploitation of fish stocks, the proposal provides for the implementation by the Member States of a satellite-based continuous monitoring system (VMS system) to monitor the position of fishing vessels flying their flag and to enable those vessels to communicate to the Member States their location and in which waters they are carrying out their activities. The Member States must carry out an annual inspection of these satellite tracking devices on board the fishing vessels flying their flag. Monitoring will apply to all fishing vessels exceeding a certain length, this obligation being implemented gradually from 1997 to 1999, according to the following arrangements: From 1 January 1997, the VMS will apply to the following categories: . vessels operating on the high seas (except in the Mediterranean), . vessels operating in the waters of third countries, . vessels catching fish to be used for the manufacture of meal and oil, . vessels using driftnets more than 1 kilometre long. Gradually, and by 1 January 1999, this system will be required for all vessels exceeding 15 metres overall. . The proposal also contains provisions that guarantee cooperation between the Member States. To this end, Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMC) are to be established to monitor fishing activities from 1 January 1997 and to forward all relevant information to the FMCs in the other Member States. Provision is also made for several Member States to operate joint FMCs. . The regulation should enter into force on 1 July 1996. ?

## Control system applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy, satellite-based vessel monitoring (amend. Regul. 2847/93/EEC)

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Dominique Souchet (NI, F) on the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy, and on the proposal amending the same Regulation as regards the deadline for a Council Decision on a continuous position monitoring system using satellite communications for Community fishing vessels. Parliament recommended the establishment, no later than 1 January 1999, of a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) for vessels fishing species declared 'sensitive'. It considered that the management committee should be delegated the task of updating the list of such species. In addition, the VMS should apply to all vessels exceeding 18 metres in overall length, instead of the 15 metres proposed by the Commission. Parliament also proposed, with the aim of ensuring fairness as between fishermen from the Member States and those of third countries, imposing strict reciprocity of the rules for the vessels of third countries fishing in European waters. Parliament also called for a budget to be set up at the level of the European Union to make continuous monitoring by satellite generally applicable by covering the necessary outlay and the cost of replacement. Finally, the Member States should impose fair sanctions for failure to comply with the Regulation and fraud in respect of fishing effort, for each vessel concerned. ?

## Control system applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy, satellite-based vessel monitoring (amend. Regul. 2847/93/EEC)

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- OBJECTIVE: establishment, under the controls applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy, of a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS). COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 6867/97 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy. SUBSTANCE: in order to limit the over-exploitation of fish stocks, the Regulation provides for the implementation by the Member States of a satellite-based continuous position monitoring system (VMS) for tracking fishing vessels flying their flag. This system enables the vessels to communicate to the Member States in which waters they are carrying out their activities, and the localization of their vessels. Initially, the VMS system will apply for a transitional period (from 30 June 1998) to all Community fishing vessels exceeding 20 metres in length between perpendiculars or 24 metres overall, operating in specific zones; . vessels operating on the high seas, except in the Mediterranean sea, . vessels operating in the waters of third countries, provided that provisions have been drawn up to this effect in the agreements concluded with the third countries concerned, . vessels catching fish for reduction to meal and oil. From 1 January 2000 the system will apply to all fishing vessels exceeding 20 metres in length between perpendiculars and 24 metres overall, wherever they operate. For Community vessels operating in the waters of third countries, the system will only apply if the vessels of those same countries apply the VMS system in Community waters. However, the Regulation waives the obligation to apply the system for certain vessels operating exclusively in coastal waters (not more than 12 nautical miles) or for short periods (24 hours between the time of departure and return to the home port). The system must ensure that the communications sent by Community vessels are received simultaneously by the flag State and the coastal Member State. The Regulation also includes provisions guaranteeing cooperation between Member States. To this end, and as from 30 June 1998, Fisheries Monitoring Centres, (FMCs) will be established to monitor fishing activities and to transmit to the centres of the other Member States all relevant information. It is also provided that Member States may operate a joint FMC. Finally, the Regulation allows a Member State to use a different system than the VMS system, provided it is as reliable as the VMS system. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 26 April 1997. ?