

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1996/0142(CNS)	Procedure completed
Fisheries sector: restructuration of the Community fishing industry for the period from 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2002, POP IV Amended by 2001/0128(CNS)		
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		27/06/1996
		ELDR KOFOED Niels Anker	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2019	26/06/1997
	Fisheries	1998	14/04/1997
	Fisheries	1983	20/12/1996
	Fisheries	1966	22/11/1996
	Fisheries	1955	14/10/1996

Key events			
29/05/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0237	Summary
04/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/10/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
22/11/1996	Debate in Council	1966	Summary
26/11/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
26/11/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0399/1996	
13/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0696/1996	Summary
20/12/1996	Debate in Council	1983	

26/06/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
26/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/07/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/0142(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amended by 2001/0128(CNS)
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 043
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/08175

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1996)0237 OJ C 259 06.09.1996, p. 0006	29/05/1996	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(1996)0203	30/05/1996	EC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0399/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0003	26/11/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0696/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0366-0372	13/12/1996	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 1997/413 OJ L 175 03.07.1997, p. 0027 Summary

Fisheries sector: restructuring of the Community fishing industry for the period from 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2002, POP IV

OBJECTIVE: the proposal for a decision aims to guide the evolution of the fishing capacity of the Community fishing fleet for six years (1 January 1997 - 31 December 2000) so as to absorb the impact in areas dependent on fishing. The objective is to reduce the size of the fleet, maritime region by maritime region, fleet segment by fleet segment, to levels that guarantee the sustainability of fishing activities and the best possible development of fishery resources. CONTENT: for this purpose, the proposal makes a clear distinction between static gears, subject to particular provisions (technical measures), and towed gears. It also allows the Member States to implement specific programmes to manage the fishing effort, which will enable them to reduce fishing activity (another parameter of fishing effort) and in this way obtain an adjustment of the necessary reductions in fleet capacity. - For fleet segments using static gears, an across-the-board reduction of 2% per year will be requested to compensate for the average effect of technical progress on the fishing effort. The Member States will also be required to take appropriate measures to limit the fishing effort of these fleets; - For fleet segments using towed gears, the scope of the measures should be adapted to the biological constraints presented by the various fishing grounds and to the characteristics and specific nature of the sector. To this end, the Commission has identified five types of fishing grounds or groups of fishing grounds. - The arrangements for moving from the objectives established for the MGP III segments to the objectives of the MGP IV segments will be adopted, Member State by Member State, within the framework of Article 5 of Regulation No 3699/93/EEC on the adoption of a fourth multiannual guidance programme. These arrangements ensure that the effort ceilings per segment required by this decision will be respected. ?

Fisheries sector: restructuration of the Community fishing industry for the period from 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2002, POP IV

The Council had an extensive debate on the Commission's Proposal, focusing on the main political issues. The President, with a view to making progress in the examination of the Proposal, summed up the debate as follows: "There is general agreement on the necessity to reduce fishing mortality rates to acceptable levels in respect of critical stocks and to find solutions which are appropriate, equitable, transparent and soundly based. In that connexion there is general recognition of the importance of making progress in relation to all available policy instruments, including conservation measures and effective control, to achieve necessary reductions in fishing mortality rates. There is general agreement on the need to assess carefully and to take full account of the socio-economic impact of reductions in fishing activity on the industry and coastal communities. In the light of these fundamental considerations, and reflecting the debate in Council, COREPER should urgently scrutinise all the elements of the Commission Proposal and should take note in its examination of the following points in particular: - the proposed aggregate capacity reduction rates are generally considered to be too high; - the appropriate relationship should be ensured between the scientific recommendations and proposed reductions; ?

Fisheries sector: restructuration of the Community fishing industry for the period from 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2002, POP IV

"The Council - discussed the MAGPs IV Proposal and considered the Presidency compromise as a broadly acceptable basis for more detailed discussions; - noted that the principal elements of the Presidency compromise were : . fishing effort reduction rates defined in relation to identified critical stocks and areas; . special treatment of small-scale coastal fishing vessels; . weighted approach to establishing fishing effort reduction; . achievement of effort reduction targets through effort management or capacity, or a combination of both; . fixing of objectives for MAGPs IV on the basis of objectives for MAGPs III; . three-year programme with a six-year horizon via a mid-term review; . fully transparent and verifiable basis for the segmentation of Member States' fleets; - noted the comments presented by Member States on this compromise; - agreed accordingly to entrust the Permanent Representatives Committee with the task of pursuing urgently discussions on this proposal with a view to reaching a final decision, if possible, before the end of the year." ?

Fisheries sector: restructuration of the Community fishing industry for the period from 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2002, POP IV

The draft report was adopted. This three-year compromise concerns the objectives and detailed rules for restructuring the Community fisheries sector with a view to achieving a balance on a sustainable basis between resources and their exploitation.?

Fisheries sector: restructuration of the Community fishing industry for the period from 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2002, POP IV

In adopting the report by Mr Niels KOFOED (ELDR, DK), Parliament approved the proposal for a Council Decision concerning the objectives and detailed rules for restructuring the Community fisheries sector for the period from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2002 with a view to achieving a balance on a sustainable basis between resources and their exploitation. Whilst acknowledging current over-capacity, Parliament considered that decisions on how concretely to achieve a reduction must await an assessment of the consequences for each fleet segment. It also believed that non-industrial fishing fleets should be required to reduce their capacity by less than what is required of the fleet as a whole. In addition, the report takes the view that the reduction in the fishing effort must be accompanied by new extraordinary measures aimed at preserving employment and decent income levels for workers in the fisheries sector. There should be automatic income compensation in proportion to the percentage of reduction of the fishing effort decided on, by means of an Extraordinary Plan for European fisheries. ?

Fisheries sector: restructuration of the Community fishing industry for the period from 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2002, POP IV

OBJECTIVE: to guide changes in the capacity of the Community fishing fleet over a six-year period (1 January 1997 - 31 December 2002) so as to absorb its impact in areas dependent on fishing. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 97/143/EC. SUBSTANCE: the Council adopted, by a qualified majority, the decision concerning the objectives and detailed rules for restructuring the Community fisheries sector for the period from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2002 with a view to achieving a balance on a sustainable basis between resources and their exploitation (POP IV); the delegations of France and the United Kingdom voted against. The objective of the decision was to reduce the size of the fleet, by maritime region and fleet segment, to levels which would guarantee the sustainability of fisheries and optimize the exploitation of fish stocks. ?