


Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1997/2035(INI)
EC/Canada, Russia agreement: agreement on humane trapping standards	
Subject 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity	
Geographical area Canada Russian Federation	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PPE PIMENTA Carlos	26/02/1997
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2011	02/06/1997

Key events			
26/02/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/05/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
22/05/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0187/1997	
02/06/1997	Debate in Council	2011	
11/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		
12/06/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0338/1997	Summary
12/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2035(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 117

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/08696

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0187/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0003	22/05/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0338/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0106-0200	12/06/1997	EP	Summary

EC/Canada, Russia agreement: agreement on humane trapping standards

An agreement on humane trapping initialled by the European Community, Canada and Russia was immediately denounced by the Committee, which called on Council and Commission to reject it as totally inadequate and ineffective. Adopting by 13 votes to 1 a draft resolution condemning the agreement, the committee also called for the immediate implementation of a much-deferred ban on the import from third countries of fur from animals trapped by inhumane methods outlawed within the Union. The text, drafted by Mr Carlos PIMENTA (EPP, P), the committee's rapporteur on trapping, also calls on the President of Parliament to re-examine the decision taken by his predecessor last September not to take legal action against the Commission for failing to take action to implement the ban. It attacks the agreement on the grounds that it: * fails to offer satisfactory solutions in terms of either animal protection or trade; * permits the continued use of leghold traps in third countries for at least another four years and may allow some types of leghold traps to be classified as humane; * substantially fails to reflect the position of the EU's own scientific experts as regards the welfare of trapped species and the extent to which the traps used are selective (ie catch only the target species). The draft resolution also notes that no agreement has been reached with the United States, the other major trapping nation. Accordingly, the committee called on the Council and Commission to continue negotiations with third countries on a comprehensive agreement, including a ban on all leghold traps within a rapid and fixed timescale, the use of traps which kill in no more than 30 seconds, the use of selective trapping methods and the establishment of adequate means of enforcement without derogations. However, it also decided that the rights and interests of indigenous trappers should be guaranteed in any such agreement. ?

EC/Canada, Russia agreement: agreement on humane trapping standards

Adopting the report by Mr Carlos PIMENTA (PPE, P) on the signature and conclusion of the international agreement on humane trapping, the European Parliament voted to reject the agreement as inadequate and ineffective. In particular it regretted that over sixteen months after imports of furs from third countries which used leghold traps had been banned (in accordance with Regulation 3254/91/EEC) and over four months after the Council deadline to start negotiations with third parties on this subject had expired, the draft agreement: - failed to offer satisfactory solutions in terms of either animal protection or trade; - permitted the continued use of leghold traps in third countries for at least another four years and might allow some types of leghold traps to be classified as humane; - substantially failed to reflect the position of the EU's scientific experts as regards the welfare of trapped species and the extent to which the traps used are selective. Furthermore, no agreement had been reached with the USA. Accordingly, it called on the Council and the Commission to: - reject the agreement; - apply the import ban immediately; - continue negotiations with third countries in order to reach a comprehensive agreement, including a ban on leghold traps within a fixed timescale, the use of selective trapping methods and the establishment of means of enforcement without derogations and making provision for representatives of indigenous populations and animal protection organizations to attend negotiations in a consultative capacity; - ensure that the rights of indigenous trappers are guaranteed under special provisions. Finally, Parliament criticized the fact that the legally binding deadline of four years for a total ban on traditional leghold traps for which provision was made in the version of the agreement dated 24 January 1997 (COM(97)0017 - CNS97019) had not been included in the version of the agreement dated 21 May 1997.?