

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1998/0116(CNS)	Procedure completed
Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIFG, structural measures		
Subject 8.20.13 Enlargement's fisheries point of view		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	PECH Fisheries		Appointed 26/02/1998
			PPE ARIAS CAÑETE Miguel
	Former committee responsible		
	PECH Fisheries		26/02/1998
			PPE ARIAS CAÑETE Miguel 26/02/1998 26/02/1998
			PPE KELLETT-BOWMAN Edward T.
			I-EDN NICHOLSON James
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	BUDG Budgets		Appointed 19/01/1999
			PPE KELLETT-BOWMAN Edward T.
	REGI Regional Policy		
	Former committee for opinion		
	BUDG Budgets		03/06/1998
			PPE KELLETT-BOWMAN Edward T.
	REGI Regional Policy		25/06/1998
			I-EDN NICHOLSON James
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		25/02/1998
			PSE MYLLER Riitta
	CONT Budgetary Control		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	FEMM Women's Rights		The committee decided not to give an opinion.

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2192	21/06/1999
	Fisheries	2152	17/12/1998
	Fisheries	2125	22/10/1998

Key events

18/03/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0131	Summary
15/06/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/10/1998	Debate in Council	2125	
28/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
28/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0406/1998	
18/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
19/11/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0678/1998	Summary
19/11/1998	Report referred back to committee		
17/12/1998	Debate in Council	2152	
20/04/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
20/04/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0244/1999	
05/05/1999	Debate in Parliament		
06/05/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0434/1999	Summary
21/06/1999	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
21/06/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/0116(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 050; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/10138

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1998)0131	18/03/1998	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(1998)0182	18/03/1998	EC	

Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1130/1998 OJ C 407 28.12.1998, p. 0074	10/09/1998	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0406/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0005	28/10/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading		T4-0678/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0123-0203	19/11/1998	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0309/1998 OJ C 093 06.04.1999, p. 0016	14/01/1999	CofR	
Supplementary legislative basic document		06947/1999	06/04/1999	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0244/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0008	20/04/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0434/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0255-0324	06/05/1999	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Regulation 1999/1263](#)

[OJ L 161 26.06.1999, p. 0054](#) Summary

Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIFG, structural measures

OBJECTIVE: in connection with the revision of the Structural Funds, to present the specific Regulation on structural measures in the fisheries sector for the financial programming period 2000-2006, taking account of the implications of Agenda 2000 (COS0590). **SUBSTANCE:** the proposal defines the objectives of the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG); it is of relevance both to the common fisheries policy and to cohesion policy. The detailed arrangements and conditions for Community financial participation in structural operations in the fisheries sector will be established at a later date as part of the revision of the specific fisheries Regulation (Regulation (EEC) No 2083/93). As the programming of the measures to accompany the restructuring of the fishing fleet is incompatible with the exclusively 'regional' character of the programming for Objective 2, the proposal does not incorporate the accompanying measures into the programme. A separate specific programme will be adopted concerning these measures, covering all regions outside Objective 1 (and including Objective 2 regions). All other measures (fleet modernization, elimination of surplus capacity, development of aquaculture, port installations, processing and marketing operations, promotional campaigns, etc.) will continue to be programmed under Objective 2. In the case of Objective 1 regions, all fisheries measures (including accompanying measures) will be programmed under this objective. The Community may contribute financially outside Objective 1 and 2 regions and for all fields in the sector, by means of funding from the EAGGF-Guarantee Section.?

Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIFG, structural measures

The report by Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE (EPP, E) on structural measures in the fisheries sector voices concern that the EU's fisheries policy is to lose its special identity. If a strictly regional approach is used for fisheries, the danger is that measures for the fisheries sector will be subordinated to other priorities. The committee has therefore called for a single legal framework to be preserved as the basis for all measures in this sector. The main issue is the need to define the objectives of the FIFG (the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance) for the period 2000-2006. The details of EU financial participation are due to be settled later when the special fisheries regulation is reviewed. The committee is suggesting an entirely new approach which departs considerably from the Commission's proposal. MEPs believe the proposal poses major risks to the fisheries industry, especially areas covered by Objective 2 (conversion of industrial and rural areas or areas dependent on fishing which are facing structural difficulties). The main danger is that the horizontal nature of the structural fisheries policy might be lost and be replaced by an exclusively regional approach. Were this to happen, fisheries in some regions would become dependent on the FIFG and in others on the EAGGF Guarantee Section, though only with regard to restructuring measures. Apart from the problems of consistency and complexity which such a division would engender, there is also a risk of relocations, with fishermen going wherever most benefit can be derived from the Funds, thereby contributing to the process of decline. Another sensitive point is the definition of "coastal areas", which is much more restrictive than "areas dependent on fishing" as it does not cover hinterland areas, where Structural Fund measures are needed to encourage the processing and aquaculture industries. Lastly, establishing a link between eligibility for funding and unemployment levels could penalise an industry in which a low unemployment rate does not mean there is no need for structural support. As there seems no realistic prospect of a new objective being created specifically for fisheries, the report proposes instead that a single horizontal regulation be introduced for the fisheries sector. It suggests the inclusion of a number of horizontal provisions which would only be concerned with structural measures

in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. In administrative and financial terms, funding provided under the FIG comes under Objectives 1 and 2 of the Structural Funds. It covers all structural measures in this sector for Objective 1 and 2 regions, whereas the EAGGF Guarantee Section would only apply to measures outside these two categories of region.?

Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIG, structural measures

At the request of the chairman of the Committee on Fisheries, Mrs Maria FRAGA ESTEVEZ (EPP, E) Parliament referred back to committee the report by Mr Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE (EPP, E) on structural measures in the fisheries sector. The grounds for Mrs FRAGA ESTEVEZ's request were that she wished to start a dialogue with the Council. The rapporteur considered in particular that Community funds for structural policy in the fisheries sector should cover all needs in the sector. The Community fisheries regulations should be amended. The rapporteur therefore proposed a single legal framework bringing together all Community fisheries regulations as part of the general Structural Funds reform package. Following the rapporteur's position, Parliament accepted a large number of amendments which reflected Mr ARIAS's proposals: - maintenance of a single legal framework which would be the basis for interventions in the fisheries sector: this approach which is radically different from the Commission's initial proposal sought to avoid the problems of consistency which could arise from the distribution of measures between the FIG and the EAGGF Guarantee Section; - no acceptance of the definition of 'coastal areas' which Parliament considered to be more restrictive than the concept of 'areas dependent on fisheries' which would allow the hinterland to be taken into account where Structural Fund measures would be needed for aspects such as processing and aquaculture. Parliament also called for maintenance of all current measures, while also improving them, including those on the modernisation and renewal of the fleet and those relating to joint enterprises so as to maintain their competitiveness on the world market. Lastly, with regard to administrative and financial aspects, the participation of the FIG would cover all structural actions in the fisheries sector for Objective 1 and 2 regions while the EAGGF Guarantee section would cover the other regions. ?

Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIG, structural measures

Echoing the outcome of the Berlin Summit (23/03/99) and the overall agreement reached by the fifteen on Agenda 2000, this text constitutes the consolidated version by the Council revising the provisions in relation to the financial instrument for fisheries guidance or FIG funds for the period 2000-2006. Essentially, this text assumes the general structure proposed by the Commission in March 1998 in its initial proposal. Notably, it reintroduces the principle of a double framework for the FIG: the Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy. However, the Council strictly limits actions to Objective 1 regions (the FIG therefore is no longer allowed, as in the initial proposal, to intervene in Objective 2 regions). At the same time, will be able to intervene outside Objective 1, by means of a Single Programming Document for each Member State. Measures which may be financed under the FIG will be all structural actions relating to: - fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels; - adjustment of fishing effort; - joint enterprises; - small-scale coastal fishing; - socio-economic measures; - protection of marine resources in coastal waters; - aquaculture; - fishing port facilities; - processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products; - measures to find and promote market outlets; - operations by members of the trade; - temporary cessation of activities and other financial compensation; - innovative actions and technical assistance; - other actions to be decided by the Council according to specific provisions. Beyond these actions, the Council re-assumes the Commission's proposal to finance through FIG measures of a transnational nature and the establishment of networks for operators in the fisheries sector, as well as technical assistance measures. It is also specified that financial participation granted to each individual operation may not exceed a maximum amount to be decided by the Council on a proposal from the Commission. Finally, the Council specifies that those not already used for the financial programming period, 1989-1993 will be released and must be refunded. It should be noted that the Berlin summit fixed the amount for the FIG from 2000 to 2006 at EURO 1,100 million for all interventions outside Objective 1 (of which EURO 875 million is attributable to budget heading 1 - agriculture).?

Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIG, structural measures

Under consultation procedure, the European Parliament adopted the resolution by Miguel Arias Cañete (PPE,ES) which approves the Commission proposal for a Council regulation on structural measures in the fisheries sector, subject to amendments, notably in the following areas: - requiring that, in order to ensure the coherence of the common fisheries policy, the Council, after consulting the Parliament, should adopt no later than 30/06/1999 the detailed rules and conditions for the Community contribution towards the structural measures in the sector; - setting out an exhaustive list of measures by means of which the structural actions in the fisheries sector shall be implemented; - providing that measures implemented with assistance from the FIG outside Objective 1 shall be the subject of a single programming document (SPD) in each Member State concerned; - extending the scope of measures to which the FIG may contribute to include services to undertakings; - deleting the provision that the Guarantee section of the EAGGF shall contribute towards supporting measures for the restructuring of the fishing fleets in regions not covered by Objective 1 of the Structural Funds and all structural measures in the sector in regions not covered by Objectives 1 and 2.?

Agenda 2000: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance FIG, structural measures

PURPOSE: Recasting of the Regulation on the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIG) for the 2000-2006 period. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 1263/1999/EC on the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance. CONTENT: The Regulation defines the objectives of the FIG and it formalises the double linkage of the FIG to the Structural policy established by Council Regulation 1260/99/EC laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (General Regulation : AVC980090), and to the common fisheries policy provided for in Council Regulation 3760/92/EEC establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture. As in the previous programming period (1994-99), the aim of the FIG is to support structural measures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and industry processing and marketing of their products in order to promote the restructuring of the sector by creating favourable conditions for its development and modernisation, while at the same time contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the common fisheries policy. - Scope: the Regulation strictly limits FIG financing. It is mainly focused on actions in Obj. 1 regions (FIG does not finance activities in all Obj. 2 regions). However, the FIG can intervene outside an Obj. 1 region via a single programming document for each Member State. Structural measures that are eligible for

funding are as follows: - fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels: such assistance must be compatible with fisheries multiannual guidance programmes; - adjustment of fishing capacities; - small-scale coastal fisheries; - socio-economic measures; - protection of marine resources; - aquaculture; - fishing port facilities; - processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products; - finding new market outlets; - innovative actions, in particular those of a transnational nature and involving the networking of operators and areas dependent on the sector. Where such actions are financed exclusively by the FIG, its scope of application may be extended to measures which would normally be covered by other Structural Funds; - technical assistance. It is also specifically stated that the Council acting on a proposal from the Commission and following consultation with the European Parliament, will adopt the detailed rules and conditions for FIG financial assistance not later than 31 December 1999. Any modification to the list of eligible measures will have to follow the same procedure. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29.06.1999.?