


Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1998/0274(CNS) Procedure completed
Diversification of fishing activities Amending Decision 97/292/EC 1996/0308(CNS)	
Subject 3.15.03 Fishing fleets, safety of fishing vessels 3.15.08 Fishing enterprises, fishermen, working conditions on board 3.15.16 Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIG), European Fisheries Fund (EFF)	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		29/09/1998
		I-EDN SOUCHET Dominique F.C.	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	2152	17/12/1998
	Fisheries	2125	22/10/1998

Key events			
04/09/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0515	Summary
05/10/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/10/1998	Debate in Council	2125	
25/11/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
25/11/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0463/1998	
15/12/1998	Debate in Parliament		
16/12/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0744/1998	Summary
17/12/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/0274(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amending Decision 97/292/EC 1996/0308(CNS)
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 043
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/10467

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1998)0515 OJ C 314 13.10.1998, p. 0018	04/09/1998	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0463/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0005	25/11/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0744/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0144-0160	16/12/1998	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 1999/27 OJ L 008 14.01.1999, p. 0022 Summary

Diversification of fishing activities

OBJECTIVE: specific measure to encourage diversification out of certain fishing activities. SUBSTANCE: Council Regulation (EC) No 894/97 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources, as recently amended by Regulation (EC) No 1239/98, prohibits fishing with driftnets intended for the capture of certain species from 01/01/2002. This ban applies to five Member States: Spain, Ireland, Italy, France and the United Kingdom. In the case of Italy, a variety of accompanying measures were implemented in 1997 on a voluntary basis. As the Council has already adopted a specific decision concerning this programme (Decision 97/292/EC), there is no need to adopt a new specific measure for Italian fishermen. However, in the interests of clarity it is proposed that Decision 97/292/EC be amended so as to list the cases in which cumulation of aid is permitted. The proposal is aimed at two categories of beneficiaries: fishermen serving on board and owners of vessels. Provision is made for two types of aid: for the permanent cessation of all economic activity and for conversion. The proposal only lays down the maximum amounts of aid. Member States are to adjust these in line with the actual economic or social loss resulting from the ban on fishing. They are also to take into account the cost of conversion and the age of the vessels. In relation to the ad hoc decision concerning Italy, the new proposal aims to: - simplify the procedures while maintaining equal treatment for Italian fishermen on the one hand and for Spanish, French, Irish and UK fishermen on the other; - limit implementation to 1999 (no specific compensation for suspension of fishing activities is provided for); - introduce a derogation to the rules on aid for modernisation of vessels laid down in Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 so as to raise the ceiling on eligible expenditure and decrease the rate of participation by beneficiaries.?

Diversification of fishing activities

By adopting the report of Mr Souchet (I-EDN,F), the Committee agreed with the proposition to put off the compensation of fishermen affected by the Council's ban on drift nets until the European Court has ruled on the appeal against the ban lodged by producer organisations. It would be inadmissible for Community funding to be used to assist fishermen who use drift nets to diversify their activities if this ban were judged to be out of order by the Court", says Mr Souchet. The ban on fishing with drift nets, intended to protect dolphins and other marine life, would hit

French, UK and Irish fishermen particularly hard and would take effect from 1 January 2002 under a Council Regulation adopted on 8 June 1998. If the drift-net ban is not ruled illegal by the Court, fishermen and shipowners in the Atlantic and Mediterranean will need financial aid in order to convert vessels to other types of fishing or leave the fisheries sector altogether. A proposed Council Decision provides for payments of up to ECU 50 000 for those ceasing all economic activity and ECU 20 000 for those converting to other types of fishing but the Fisheries Committee also wants compensation for local authorities and producer organisations which have invested in port facilities and markets. Other amendments tabled in Mr Souchet's report call for the diversification measures to be applied fairly to fishermen in different Member States, ensuring that all those who suffer genuine loss are compensated and that the aid is not abused. Mr Souchet says fishermen should not be allowed to continue using drift nets by sailing under non-EU flags and the ECU 50 000 grant should only go to fishermen over 50 who stop work. He also wants to ensure that enough money is available for the diversification measures by allowing Member States to exceed Structural Fund limits where necessary. ?

Diversification of fishing activities

In adopting the report drafted by Mr. Dominique SOUCHET (I-EDN, F) on the diversification out of certain fishing activities, the Parliament called for a delay in granting compensation measures to fishermen affected by the Council of Ministers' drift net ban, until the Court of Justice has ruled upon the appeal against the ban lodged by producer organisations. The ban on fishing with drift nets, intended to protect dolphins and other marine life, would affect French, Irish and UK fisherman particularly badly. If the drift net ban is not ruled illegal by the Court, fishermen and shipowners would need financial assistance in order to convert vessels to other types of fishing or to leave the fishing sector. Those ceasing all their activity in the fishing sector by 01.01.2002, provided that they are over 50 years of age, should be paid EUR 50 000. Those converting to other types of fishing would receive a payment of EUR 20,000. The Parliament also called for compensation for local authorities and producer organisations which had invested in port facilities and markets.?

Diversification of fishing activities

OBJECTIVE: to encourage diversification out of certain fishing activities. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 1999/27/EC on a specific measure to encourage diversification out of certain fishing activities and amending Decision 97/292/EC. CONTENT: in the interests of clarity, the amendment to Decision 97/292/EC lists the cases in which cumulation of aid is permitted. The Decision is aimed at two categories of beneficiaries: fishermen serving on board and owners of vessels. Provision is made for two types of aid: for the permanent cessation of activity and for conversion. The Decision only lays down the maximum amounts of aid. Member States are to adjust these in line with the actual economic or social loss resulting from the ban on fishing. They are also to take into account the cost of conversion and the age of the vessels. The Decision aims mainly to: - simplify the procedures while maintaining equal treatment for Italian fishermen on the one hand and for Spanish, Irish, French and UK fishermen on the other; - limit implementation to 1999 (no specific compensation for suspension is provided for); - introduce a derogation to the rules in force on aid for modernisation of vessels laid down in Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 so as to raise the ceiling on eligible expenditure and decrease the rate of participation by beneficiaries.?