

Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1998/0347(CNS) Procedure completed
Agenda 2000: Financial instrument for fisheries guidance, application FIGG, structural assistance Amended by 2000/0310(CNS) Amended by 2001/0129(CNS) Amended by 2002/0116(CNS) Amended by 2003/0261(CNS) Amended by 2005/0005(CNS) See also 2005/0262(CNS) Subject 3.15 Fisheries policy 3.15.16 Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIGG), European Fisheries Fund (EFF) 8.20.13 Enlargement's fisheries point of view	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		26/02/1998
		PPE ARIAS CAÑETE Miguel	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		19/01/1999
		PPE KELLETT-BOWMAN Edward T.	
	REGI Regional Policy		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	2359	18/06/2001
	Fisheries	2237	17/12/1999
	Fisheries	2220	22/11/1999
	Fisheries	2189	10/06/1999
	Fisheries	2170	30/03/1999
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner	

Key events			
19/11/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

14/12/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0728	Summary
30/03/1999	Debate in Council	2170	
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	T4-0435/1999	Summary
10/06/1999	Debate in Council	2189	
17/12/1999	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/12/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/12/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/0347(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	<p>Amended by 2000/0310(CNS)</p> <p>Amended by 2001/0129(CNS)</p> <p>Amended by 2002/0116(CNS)</p> <p>Amended by 2003/0261(CNS)</p> <p>Amended by 2005/0005(CNS)</p> <p>See also 2005/0262(CNS)</p>
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 036
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/10565

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1998)0728 OJ C 016 21.01.1999, p. 0012	14/12/1998	EC	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	T4-0435/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0255-0361	06/05/1999	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0553/1999 OJ C 209 22.07.1999, p. 0010	26/05/1999	ESC	
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0101/1999 OJ C 293 13.10.1999, p. 0065	02/06/1999	CofR	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0738	21/11/2000	EC	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0541	01/10/2001	EC	Summary

Document attached to the procedure		COM(2001)0766	13/12/2001	EC	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2002)0446	01/08/2002	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2003)0508	21/08/2003	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Regulation 1999/2792](#)

[OJ L 337 30.12.1999, p. 0010](#) Summary

Agenda 2000: Financial instrument for fisheries guidance, application FIGG, structural assistance

OBJECTIVE: to lay down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding community structural assistance in the fisheries sector. **CONTENT:** this proposal aims to reform the system for structural measures in the fisheries sector, following the proposal of 18 March 98 on the revision of the FIGG within the framework of Agenda 2000 (funding for structural measures in the fisheries sector). The general aims of this revision relate to the following areas: - adjustment of the provisions on programming to the new situation as regards the Structural Funds (Objectives 1 and 2) where recourse is required to the EAGGF Guarantee Section; - clarifying some provisions found to have been insufficiently explicit or difficult to apply; - extending assistance to new areas; - bringing premiums and scales up to date. The main measures proposed: As regards the fleet: the fourth-generation multiannual guidance programme (MGP IV, 1997-2001) remains the reference basis. Management of fleet development is based on the following: a) a new fleet renewal system, including permanent arrangements for administering additions to and removals from the fleet: under the scheme proposed, additions with public aid will be possible only if outweighed by an associated withdrawal without aid. For the small scale coastal fishing segment, the additions must not lead to an increase in fishing effort; b) a marked tightening up of measures to deal with Member States which do not abide by the provisions of the MGP or the Community fishing vessel register; c) a redefinition of joint enterprises, which are now regarded as a special method of exporting which qualifies for a premium additional to the export premium. The current rules are tightened up in order, on the one hand, to ensure synergy with the practices and provisions governing fisheries agreements and, on the other, to take account of the Court of Auditors' criticisms concerning the management of joint enterprises in the past. As regards small-scale coastal fishing, it is proposed to pay more attention to the problems specific to this segment, whose modernisation (with no increase of fishing effort) is a political priority on account of its particular features and its contribution to employment. As regards the accompanying measures, it is proposed: a) to extend the range of socioeconomic measures by granting a premium to allow individual fishermen to switch to other occupations; b) to redefine the current mechanism for temporary laying-up. Public aid will be authorised only on the basis of strict, precise and transparent criteria. As regards the other areas of assistance, it is proposed: a) to continue measures in favour of productive investment in the processing industry and in aquaculture and in facilities at fishing ports, paying attention to the environmental aspects in the case of aquaculture and giving priority to collective measures; b) to introduce provisions on producer organisations (which are currently contained in the "market" regulation), improving and rationalising their content and making them more consistent with the other structural measures; c) to continue the operations by members of the trade, an option insufficiently used hitherto despite strong demand from the trade. ?

Agenda 2000: Financial instrument for fisheries guidance, application FIGG, structural assistance

The Committee has unanimously adopted the draft report, as amended, by Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE (EPP, E) on the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIGG). Before the vote the rapporteur told MEPs that the committee had managed to persuade the Council to accept its basic objectives, the key aim being to have all structural measures financed through a single financial instrument, the FIGG. The committee adopted two proposals for Council regulations, one on structural measures in the fisheries sector and the other laying down detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector. The first regulation seeks to establish a framework for Community support for structural policy in the fisheries and aquaculture sector as well as the industries processing and marketing their products. The committee restated its position that all structural measures should be financed via the FIGG. It also supported the idea of a single programming document for each Member State for regions not covered by Objective 1. Member States are to ensure at national level that the restructuring measures for the fishing fleet supported under the FIGG are consistent with their obligations deriving from the common fisheries policy and in particular the multiannual guidance programmes. Given the diversity of the areas of the Union dependent on fishing, structural policy must observe the subsidiarity principle. At the same time, unjustified distortions of competition resulting from structural measures need to be prevented. Structural actions in the fisheries sector cover a huge range of measures, such as permanent withdrawal of fishing vessels, joint ventures, temporary cessation of fishery activities, temporary joint ventures, pilot projects, innovatory activities and technical assistance and the renovation and modernisation of fishing vessels. Structural measures in the fisheries sector may also take the form of: -innovative action including transnational operations and the establishment of networks for those operating in the sector and areas dependent on fishing; -technical assistance measures and services for undertakings, subject to compliance with budgetary decisions. With regard to the second regulation, the committee adopted a number of changes concerning the programming arrangements: development plans to be drawn up at the geographical level deemed most appropriate by the Member State; wherever possible, fisheries support measures applied in one area to be integrated into a single plan; development plans to cover a period of seven years from 1st January 2000;

implementation of multiannual guidance programmes for fishing fleets (definition and monitoring of MGPs, adjustment of fishing efforts, reorientation of fishing activities, renewal of fleets and modernisation of vessels); small scale inshore fishing; aid for capital investment in aquaculture; and, lastly, development of coastal waters, fishing port facilities and processing and marketing.

Agenda 2000: Financial instrument for fisheries guidance, application FIG, structural assistance

Under consultation procedure, the European Parliament adopted the report by Miguel Arias Cañete (PPE,ES), which approves the Commission proposal for a Council regulation laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding the Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector, subject to a large number of amendments. As a matter of priority, the Parliament wishes to see all structural measures under the regulation financed by the FIG alone, rather than a combination of the FIG and the EAGGF guarantee section. The report extensively amends the original proposal by substituting the traditional programming of fisheries policy with development plans to be drawn up at the geographical level deemed to be the most appropriate and covering a period of 7 years from 01/01/2000. The report details the scope and content of the plans, which should include an indicative overall financial table summarising the national and Community financial resources provided for each year. Whenever possible, the Parliament proposes that fisheries support measures to be applied in one area be integrated into a single plan. The report defines a "multiannual guidance programme for the fishing fleet" as a series of objectives accompanied by a set of measures for their realisation, allowing for management of fishing effort on an overall, long-term basis. The report also makes significant amendments and clarifications in many other areas of the proposal, notably with regard to renewal of the fishing fleet and the modernisation of fishing vessels (particularly with regard to public financing in this area), measures related to the scrapping of vessels, the setting up of joint ventures and measures related to aquaculture. Amendments are also made in respect of small-scale coastal fishing, funding for the development of marine areas and the provision of fishing port facilities.?

Agenda 2000: Financial instrument for fisheries guidance, application FIG, structural assistance

PURPOSE : to lay down detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sectors. **COMMUNITY MEASURE :** Council Regulation 2792/1999/EC laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector. **CONTENT :** the structural activities have as their objective to contribute to the restructuring of the fisheries sector by creating ideal conditions for its development and its modernisation. To this effect, they make up an integral part of the common fisheries policy. The structural activities aim to : achieve a lasting balance between aquatic resources and their exploitation, in particular by introducing a fleet renewal system which makes an effective contribution adjusting fishing capacity, while at the same time, enabling the fleet to be modernised ; strengthen competitiveness and contribute to the development of economically viable enterprises throughout the production chain; - improve the supply of fishery and aquaculture products and add to their value ; help revitalise areas dependent on fishing. The new Regulation adopted by the Council is based on the following elements : - fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels : each Member State shall submit to the Commission permanent arrangements for monitoring fleet renewal and modernisation. Within the framework of these arrangements, Member States shall demonstrate that entries and exits from the fleet will be managed in such a way that the capacity does not exceed the annual objectives fixed in the Multiannual Guidance Programme, overall and for the segments concerned, or, where appropriate, that fishing capacity is gradually reduced to attain these objectives. These arrangements shall, in particular, take into account that the capacity which has been withdrawn with public aid cannot be replaced. Vessels of less than 12 metres length excluding trawlers, however, are exempted. Member States can submit a request for a clearly identified and quantified increase in the capacity objectives for measures to improve safety, navigation at sea, hygiene, product quality and working conditions provided that these measures do not result in an increase in the exploitation rate of the resources concerned. Public aid for fleet renewal and the modernisation of vessels shall only be permitted under the following conditions : - where the annual objectives overall and for the segments concerned are respected, Member States must ensure that during the programming period from 2000 to 2006 the entry of new capacity with public aid is compensated by the withdrawal of a capacity without public aid which is at least equal to the new capacity introduced in the segments concerned, taken in aggregate and in terms of both tonnage and power; - until 31.12.2001, where the overall objective is met but where the annual objectives of the segments concerned are not yet respected, Member States must ensure that during the period from 2000 to 2001 the withdrawal of capacity must be at least 30% greater than the new capacity introduced in the segments concerned ; - public aid may also be granted for the equipping or modernising of vessels where this does not concern capacity measured in terms of either tonnage or power. The Council shall decide by 31.12.2001 on any necessary adjustments to be applied as from 01.01.2002. The Member States may take, for fishermen, measures of a socio-economic nature. Financial assistance from the FIG (Financial Instrument for Fishing Guidance) may be granted only for the following measures : - part-financing of national early-retirement schemes for fishermen ; - granting individual compensatory payments to fishermen who can show that they have worked for at least 12 months as fishermen ; - granting non-renewable individual compensatory payments to fishermen who can show that they have worked for at least 5 years as fishermen, to help them retrain or diversify their activities outside maritime fisheries under an individual or collective social plan ; - granting individual premiums to fishermen younger than 35 years old who acquire for the first time part or total ownership of a fishing vessel. 2) permanent withdrawal : if the case arises, the fishing effort may be adjusted by putting an end to fishing activities of the vessels. This measure is only applicable to vessels which are at least 10 years old. The permanent withdrawal of fishing activities can be attained by : - the scrapping of the vessel ; - the permanent transfer of the vessel to a third country ; - the permanent reassignment of the vessels for other purposes than fishing. Public aid for final cessation is provided for, under the conditions defined in the Regulation. This aid can also be extended to cases where vessels are transferred to joint enterprises in third countries, in accordance with special provisions laid down in the text. **ENTRY INTO FORCE :** 02.01.2000. However, some provisions from previous Regulations governing structural actions in the fisheries sector (Regulations 2468/98/EC 3759/92/EEC and 3140/82/EEC in particular) shall remain applicable for aid, measures and projects approved before 31.12.1999.?

Agenda 2000: Financial instrument for fisheries guidance, application FIG, structural assistance

This is the closing report on MAGP IV. During the six years of its existence the reduction for the Community fleet (without the vessels registered in the French outermost regions) has been 107.284 GT and 928.973 kW, or 5,31% in GT and 11,77% in kW. The relatively modest MAGP IV targets have been substantially over-achieved in most Member States. At 31 December 2002 the size of the Community fleet was 19% (in GT) and 13% (in kW) below the final objective of the MAGPs, and all Member States managed to bring their fleets within their objective both in tonnage and in power, with the exception of Belgium which is outside its objective in GT (104%). Out of the 23 fisheries where

objectives had been set in terms of fishing effort, four fisheries did not respect the objective in Gtxdays and only two exceeded the objective in kWxdays. Taking into account the of the results expressed in tonnage (GT), which involve a certain degree of uncertainty because of the ongoing fleet remeasurement, the global result for the Community fleet is as follows: - Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden have met their objectives in all segments of their fleets; - all Member States, apart from Belgium and the Netherlands, have met their global objectives in tonnage at the end of 2002; - remaining uncertainties on the quality of the Irish fleet data make it difficult to assess their degree of compliance with MAGP IV. Furthermore, the Council regulations with the CFP reform, adopted in December 2002, established a link with the now-expired MAGPs by fixing the reference levels for the Community fleet as the sum of MAGP IV objectives in capacity. In the same spirit the Commission intends to take account of previous MAGP IV effort ceilings in any future effort limitation system in the framework of Recovery Plans or Multi-Annual Management Plans. This has already been proposed for the recovery plans for Cod (CNS/2003/0090) and for Northern Hake (CNS/2003/0137). These two proposals are under discussion in Council.?