


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2302(INI)	Procedure completed
Role of flags of convenience in the fisheries sector		
Subject 3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas		

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	PECH Fisheries		23/01/2001	
		V/ALE MCKENNA Patricia		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism			20/03/2001	
		PPE-DE RIPOLL Y MARTÍNEZ DE BEDOYA Carlos		
DEVE Development and Cooperation	The committee decided not to give an opinion.			

Key events			
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/11/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
20/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0405/2001	
13/12/2001	Debate in Parliament		
13/12/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0715/2001	Summary
13/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/07/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2302(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/14274

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0405/2001	20/11/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0715/2001 OJ C 177 25.07.2002, p. 0224-0324 E	13/12/2001	EP	Summary

Role of flags of convenience in the fisheries sector

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Patricia McKENNA (Greens/EFA, IRL) on the role of flags of convenience (FOCs) in the fisheries sector. It called for a firmer attitude on the part of the EU with a view to launching a broad counter-attack against fishing by vessels operating under flags of convenience, while taking account of the various players involved. The report called on EU Member States to complete ratification of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and implement the FAO International Plan of Action on Illegal Fishing. Member States were urged to refuse to remove vessels from their shipping registers if they were being exported to countries which offered FOCs. The committee welcomed the action taken by countries such as Japan, Taiwan and South Africa - the latter having banned the landing of illegal catches - but condemned others for temporarily including in their register vessels known to have engaged in FOC fishing, which it said was tantamount to "laundering" their products. The report also said that action needed to be taken by the Commission - for example, amending the Control Regulation, particularly as regards the conditions for allowing landings of fish catches. The Commission should also propose measures banning natural or legal persons in the Community from trading in fish or fish products derived from FOC fishing and adopt trade and customs legislation to seal off all the Member States' markets against the products of illegal fishing. In the interests of transparency and legal certainty, the Commission should also include in its internal rules the list of FOC states and territories drawn up by the regional fisheries organisations. This would help eliminate the payment of subsidies to joint ventures involving ships which were to be registered in countries on that list.

Role of flags of convenience in the fisheries sector

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Patricia McKENNA (Greens/ EFA, IRL). (Please refer to the previous document).