


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2303(INI)	Procedure completed
European fish processing industry		
Subject 3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	PPE-DE LANGENHAGEN Brigitte	28/11/2000

Key events			
17/05/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
20/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0045/2002	
14/03/2002	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0128/2002	Summary
14/03/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/02/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2303(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/5/14693

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0045/2002	20/02/2002	EP	

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0128/2002 OJ C 047 27.02.2003, p. 0420-0601 E	14/03/2002	EP	Summary
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European fish processing industry

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (EPP-ED, D) on the fish processing industry. It pointed out that this sector was of vital importance for the EU's supplies of food and was, moreover, a labour-intensive industry generating a large number of jobs and hence a source of income for regions dependent on fisheries, having an annual turnover of more than EUR 10 billion. MEPs called on the Commission to include the processing industry in its proposals to reform the common fisheries policy. They added that the fisheries industry, including the processing side, should only be subject to a certain degree to internal market rules, and called on the Commission to submit a paper to Council and Parliament containing an analysis of the industry and describing the policies pursued in this area. The report focused on certain matters which were important for the economic and social development of the industry, such as the gradual abolition of customs duties on raw materials for processing (with the exception of sensitive products such as imports of tuna loin and Asian preserves), the coordination of measures to liberalise port services, the need to maintain and increase structural aid for modernising the industry and the problems of recycling waste water. MEPs also stressed that consumers must be able to rely on precise product designations, in particular in the case of canned sardines and tuna from third countries, and on the harmonisation of trade names of processed fishery products, so as to prevent confusion. Lastly, they said that the industry could only benefit from tighter controls designed to ensure the quality of products and guarantee food safety, since a healthy natural product represented the real added value of processed fish. ?

European fish processing industry

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (EPP/ED, Denmark) on the fish processing industry. (Please refer to the document dated 20/02/02). Parliament pointed out that the Community's many technical, environmental and hygiene and health-related rules have a direct impact on the sector and constitute a difficult process of modernisation, in particular for the sector's SMEs. Additionally, because of the lack of effective instruments, in particular to ensure the traceability of imported fish, crustacea and shellfish, especially as regards the precise designation of species and their origin, the community sector is subject to unfair competition. Precise product designation is required. In the interests of a high level of consumer protection, the Commission should ensure the coordination of national laboratories, uniform standards for analysis and test methods, the exchange of information on research into new methods and strict checks on the quality and hygiene conditions of all imported goods, and for this purpose to consider setting up a Community laboratory. The Commission must also ensure that structural funds are available to the processing industry, given that the industry is adversely affected by management measures, including real-time closures, recovery plans and decommissioning. Community legislation should be introduced to harmonise the trade names of processed fishery products and standards for their labelling, presentation and advertising - used in the various Member states - in order to prevent confusion amongst consumers and the creation of barriers to intra-Community trade in these products, thereby facilitating the legitimate development of the processing industry.?