

Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 2001/2143(COS)	Procedure completed
Fisheries policy: integration of environmental protection, Cardiff process	
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.70 Environmental policy 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		29/05/2001
		PSE LAVARRA Vincenzo	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		26/06/2001
		GUE/NGL GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ Laura	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	2344	25/04/2001
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner	

Key events			
16/03/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0143	Summary
25/04/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/12/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
18/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0457/2001	
17/01/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0018/2002	Summary
17/01/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	

Procedure reference	2001/2143(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/14584

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0143	16/03/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0457/2001	18/12/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0018/2002 OJ C 271 07.11.2002, p. 0068-0420 E	17/01/2002	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2002)0186	28/05/2002	EC	Summary

Fisheries policy: integration of environmental protection, Cardiff process

PURPOSE : to set the basis of a strategy for enhancing the integration of environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy. **CONTENT :** This communication intends to set the basis of a strategy for enhancing the integration of environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policies. The strategy is to be adopted by the Council in the context of the Cardiff process to achieve the objectives of Article 6 of the Treaty. Furthermore, the communication will contribute to the forthcoming debate about the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. The document describes the current situation and underlines that, although environmental integration is to a large extent inherent in any policy concerning use of marine resources, more attention should be paid, beyond the conservation of fisheries resources of commercial importance, to the consideration of a broader context where the whole marine ecosystem(s) should be safeguarded. In order to define the main actions to be taken, this communication reviews the environmental concerns which need to be addressed, including Community commitments in the internal and international contexts. Subsequently, the objective of integration is defined as achieving a contribution from the Common Fisheries Policy towards the attainment of environmental objectives in the aquatic environment. A series of actions is proposed, classified by topics, complementing the action suggested in other Commission documents, such as the Biodiversity Action Plan for Fisheries, and followed by a suggested timetable. Lastly, it is proposed to adopt performance indicators and a revision process in order to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the strategy and, as appropriate, reinforce implementation and enforcement or review the strategy.?

Fisheries policy: integration of environmental protection, Cardiff process

The committee adopted the report by Vincenzo LAVARRA (PES, I) on the Commission communication. It was critical of the Commission's emphasis on the present situation of over-fishing and fleet overcapacity and the Commission's own contradictory claim that there was a lack of scientific knowledge about the functioning of marine ecosystems and the side-effects of fishing. It therefore called for the forthcoming review of the common fisheries policy (CFP) to focus on the ecosystem, switching from a traditional resource management approach. More funding should be provided for coordinating research into fisheries and into marine ecology. The Commission was urged to put forward alternative proposals to solve the overfishing problem in place of the simplistic solution of permanently decommissioning vessels and forcing fishermen out of the sector, without any support measures. The report pointed out that current levels of industrial fisheries were detrimental both to the survival of fish stocks and the marine environment as a whole. Given the current shortage of resources, it was unacceptable that one-third of Community fish catches should be processed into fish oil and fishmeal used for aquaculture. The committee also expressed concern at the high levels of marine pollution caused by dioxins in areas where such fish were caught, which meant that they were entering the food chain. An ecosystem-based approach meant that measures were needed to combat the problem of external pollutants harmful to fisheries, and the "polluter pays" principle should be extended to the fisheries sector. Closer attention should also be paid to restocking measures and responsible forms of aquaculture, backed up by start-up assistance and accompanying socio-economic measures for those whose activities were curtailed as a consequence of the new policies. ?

Fisheries policy: integration of environmental protection, Cardiff process

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Vincenzo LAVARRA (PES, I). (Please refer to the decision of the committee responsible 18/12/01). It should be added that the Parliament points out that the appropriate legal basis for environmental policy is Article 175 TEC and that specific legislation on the protection of the marine environment stemming from the the review of the common fisheries policy must take account of that fact. ?