Procedure file

Basic information

COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2115(COS)	Procedure completed
Common fisheries policy: protection of resources, the environment and consumers. Green Paper Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.02 Aquaculture 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 4.60 Consumers' protection in general 5.05 Economic growth		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		29/05/2001
		PSE MIGUÉLEZ RAMOS Rosa	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		26/06/2001
		PSE DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		26/06/2001
		GUE/NGL GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ Laura	
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		10/07/2001
		V/ALE LANNOYE Paul A.A.J.G.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	2359	18/06/2001
	Fisheries	2344	25/04/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries		

Key events

21/03/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0135	Summary
25/04/2001	Debate in Council	2344	

18/06/2001	Debate in Council	2359	
02/07/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/12/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
18/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0470/2001	
17/01/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0016/2002	Summary
17/01/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2115(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/14603

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2001)0418	18/03/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2001)0419	19/03/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2001)0420	20/03/2001	EC	
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0135	21/03/2001	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1315/2001 OJ C 036 08.02.2002, p. 0036	17/10/2001	ESC	
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0153/2001 OJ C 107 03.05.2002, p. 0044	14/11/2001	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0470/2001	18/12/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0016/2002 OJ C 271 07.11.2002, p. 0067-0401 E	17/01/2002	EP	Summary

Common fisheries policy: protection of resources, the environment and consumers. Green Paper

In this document, the Commission presents a general overview of the implementation of Regulation 3760/92, as well as a general overview of the major developments in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) since the last reform in 1992. The problems that the CFP is facing are similar to what they were in 1992, but since they were not properly addressed, they are more acute now. Problems include stocks that are outside safe biological limits and fleet over-capacity. The emergence of new fishing nations and market globalisation threaten the competitiveness and survival of many sectors of the European fishing industry. The spectacular development of aquaculture has created new opportunities but has brought with it new challenges related to consumer and environmental protection. The Community framework for fisheries has not always provided answers for these challenges. Stock conservation has been a weak point. The basic management tools were available but there was insufficient political will to make use of them, despite the fact that the 1992 reform introduced the possibility of adopting multi-annual frameworks for management decisions, and of linking the conservation and structural dimensions of the CFP. The report investigates the management of resources, and considers the reasons behind the failure to implement an efficient effort management scheme, as well as the Council's failure to take a decision in 1993 on management objectives and strategies. . Advances in scientific advice, and the experience acquired from the Commission's 1993 proposal, make a multiannual approach more feasible. In 2000, the Commission presented a Communication on the application of the precautionary principle and the multiannual arrangements for setting TACs. On the question of the

TACs, the report states that globally, TACs and quotas have been an efficient tool for managing monospecific fisheries when there is adequate scientific advice which is taken into account and when there is strict enforcement. On the other hand, multispecies fisheries cannot be efficiently managed through TACs and quotas, as is the case now, especially when technical measures are not properly designed and effectively implemented; the recent cod and hake crisis perfectly illustrate this point. On monitoring the CFP, many problems have been identified. These are: deficiencies in inspections carried out by Member States, delays in implementing new control provisions, a lack of resources, major discrepancies in the application of penalties leading to fraud and a feeling of unequal treatment amongst fishermen, a lack of adequate information transmitted by Member States and a lack of resources and powers for the Commission Inspectorate. All CFP players recognise the need for an effective control regime. There is a need to give new impetus to the current dynamics in support of strengthening control, to strengthen stakeholders commitment to the CFP and to change the division of responsibilities between Commission and Member States. The report investigates the restructuring of the fisherieis sector, as well as market policy and the external fisheries policy. It discusses the processing industry and aquaculture, which is the only segment of the Community fisheries industry to see an increase in employment.?

Common fisheries policy: protection of resources, the environment and consumers. Green Paper

This document describes the state of fisheries resources and their expected development. The ICES provide yearly assessments of the four basic biological factors (recruitment, growth, natural mortality and fishing mortality) and its assessments of the landings for a large number of stocks. The mature part of the stock is labelled spawning biomass (SSB). This is a measure of the cumulative biomass of all the fish that will spawn in a given year. The report prefaces its analysis by stating that the largest uncertainties in assessment are associated with the most recent estimates of SSB and fishing mortality. It goes on to give stock development by areas. The species-by species review clearly indicates a drastically declining trend in SSB and landings over several years for almost all cod stocks. The development for hake is also a matter of concern. Similar trends can also be seen for the cumulated SSB and landings of major roundfish species in the North Sea, west of Scotland and the Irish Sea. The global assessment since the early 1970s summarises the situation as follows: -almost all roundfish stocks have declined and the current harvest is in most cases not sustainable. -several flatfish stocks are harvested at excessively high levels but some are close to sustainable levels. -pelagic species and species subject to fishing for industrial purposes are in better condition but harvest rates need to be maintained at current levels or reduced to secure sustainability -several deep sea species show signs of over-exploitation and some might have reached critical levels. -generally speaking, economical and biological benefits would accrue from lower exploitation of most stocks.?

Common fisheries policy: protection of resources, the environment and consumers. Green Paper

PURPOSE: to launch a wide ranging debate with interested parties on the future of the European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) CONTENT: the European Commission's Green Paper on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) forms an extensive, comprehensive and all encompassing analysis of the current situation regarding fisheries in Europe. It assesses the current short comings of the EU's fisheries policy, whilst at the same time offering a number of possibilities for improvements. It is designed to launch a wide-ranging debate with a view to formulating more concrete proposals on the reform of CFP at the end of this year. The Green Paper acknowledges that the objectives governing the CFP (based largely on the same objectives as the Common Agricultural Policy), are incompatible with current trends. Clearly, one of the most important shortcomings of the CFP is the continuing decline of critical fish stock within EU waters, in particular the decline of the demersal round fish stock such as cod and haddock. Other shortcomings include: - the overcapacity of the Community fleet; - management deficiencies; - environmental failings; - monitoring and control; - economic and social problems; - aquaculture; - failure in the processing industry; and a - failure in the CFP Mediterranean policies. In terms of improving conservation policy the Green Paper offers the following possibilities: - the implementation of multi-annual and ecosystem-oriented management; - the adoption of stronger technical measures; - the development of a system to track progress of the CFP towards sustainable development. On the question of defined technical measures, the Green Paper offers a number of specific options namely, the introduction and promotion of the use of selectivity devices that reduce or eliminate by-catches of non-target species; of fishing methods that have a reduced physical impact on the environment; and the closure of a given zone including the exclusion of any fishing activity in the area. Other measures proposed include negotiating a percentage of the by-catch species as part of the TACs. Concerning over capacity of the EU's Fleet, the Green Paper offers the following possibilities: the development of a fleet in line with multi-annual objectives and a halt to public funding for fleet development and or maintenance. This should be complemented by greater transparency with tighter enforcement of the rules by Member States. The Commission invites all interested parties to respond to the Green Paper by 30 September 2001.?

Common fisheries policy: protection of resources, the environment and consumers. Green Paper

The committee adopted the report by Rosa MIGUELEZ RAMOS (PES, E) on the Commission's Green Paper on the future of the common fisheries policy (CFP). It criticised the Green Paper for only proposing half-measures, which simply sought to preserve the CFP more or less in its current form, albeit with some modest changes. MEPs believed the CFP needed to be overhauled to take account of new realities (the single market, the various enlargements on the horizon, the depletion of fish stocks), while maintaining the basic objectives of a Community policy which aims to have a coherent and beneficial socio-economic impact. With regard to the conservation and management of fishery resources, the Commission was urged to adopt fisheries legislation based on the precautionary principle, not only to ensure the survival of species but also to optimise levels of exploitation. In addition, the current system of total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas needed to be improved and made more flexible. However, MEPs rejected any system of individual or transferable quotas. Technical measures should be adopted to reduce discarded catches and protect young fish. As regards the fishing fleets, MEPs pointed out that management measures organised around fleet planning programmes (MGPs) had fallen far short of the objectives they were theoretically designed to achieve, partly as a result of failings by certain Member States. Effective sanctions should therefore be introduced to deal with infringements, omissions or delays with regard to MGPs. Moreover, to make inspections more effective, the committee called for a uniform system of penalties or even an expansion in the powers of Community inspectors. Turning to the international dimension of the CFP, the report said that the Community should integrate the external aspects of the CFP (international agreements and regional fisheries organisations) into the EU's foreign policy. Such agreements should be concluded only after a careful assessment of fish stocks and of their impact on the environment. Above all, however, the CFP must be closely tied to development policy and the fight against poverty. MEPs also stressed the need for the Community to play a bigger role in the regional fisheries organisations. They were critical of the Green Paper for neglecting the social dimension of fisheries

and therefore called for harmonisation of employment conditions and the drafting of a statute for sea fishermen, together with increased monitoring of safety and hygiene conditions by the relevant EU agencies. In general, future decisions should be taken at the lowest possible level in order to involve those working in the industry, as well as politicians and scientists, as closely as possible in the new CFP. Lastly, the Commission was asked to conduct an assessment of the implementation of the CFP reform by 2007.?

Common fisheries policy: protection of resources, the environment and consumers. Green Paper

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mrs Rosa MIGUELEZ RAMOS (PES, E). (Please refer to the decision of the committee responsible 18/12/01). It should also be added that the European Parliament considered that reform should take account of the three main aspects: deep sea fishing, small coastal fishing, aquaculture, an important pillar of the CFP, which is increasingly helping to meet the growing demand of fishery products on the Community. With regard to the conservation and management of fishery resources, the Commission is urged, in order to give increased protection to marine biotopes, to adopt fisheries legislation based on the precautionary principle, not only to ensure the survival of species but also to optimise levels of exploitation. In addition, the current system of total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas needs to be improved and made more flexible, i.e more 'multi-species' oriented and more multiannual. It was also suggested that any interannual upward or downward variation in a TAC of more than 15-20% to be preceded by a socio-economic impact report (except in cases of a dramatic and proven change in the situation of the resource). Parliament also highlighted the point that the Hague Resolution is an intrinsic part of relative stability and reflects the Community's commitment to coastal communities. The House also expresses surprise at the lack of references in the Green Paper to the role of industrial fishing which, in the current situation where resources are scarce, accounts for two-thirds of Community catches, which are used for the production of fish meal and fish oils. With regard to fleet fishing, the Parliament rejects the Commission's intention substantially to reduce structural aid in the fishing industry, bearing in mind the socio-economic difficulties facing the industry and considers that in light of past results, structural aid should be redistributed on a more equitable basis. As regards the Mediterranean, the Parliament considers that new guidelines are needed for the management of Mediterranean resources.?