


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 2002/2174(COS)	Procedure completed
Common Fisheries Policy CFP: reform action programme and roadmap	
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	PPE-DE STEVENSON Struan	19/06/2002
Council of the European Union	Council configuration Agriculture and Fisheries	Meeting 2468	Date 28/11/2002
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner	

Key events			
28/05/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0181	Summary
02/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/11/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
05/11/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0380/2002	
18/11/2002	Debate in Parliament		
20/11/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0555/2002	Summary
20/11/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/11/2002	Debate in Council	2468	
29/01/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2174(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/5/16369

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0181	28/05/2002	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0380/2002	05/11/2002	EP	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0600	06/11/2002	EC	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0555/2002 OJ C 025 29.01.2004, p. 0028-0207 E	20/11/2002	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1369/2002 OJ C 085 08.04.2003, p. 0087-0094	11/12/2002	ESC	
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0189/2002 OJ C 128 29.05.2003, p. 0006-0013	12/02/2003	CofR	

Common Fisheries Policy CFP: reform action programme and roadmap

PURPOSE : to present the Communication from the European Commission on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (Roadmap).

CONTENT : the CFP has reached a turning-point. The challenges are urgent and serious. The current poor sustainability performance of the CFP proves that many of the instruments applied over the last twenty years have reached their limits. In this state of crisis there is a need for major change. Reform of the objectives, principles, priorities and instruments of the CFP is more than ever necessary to deliver sustainable development and to ensure that the European fishing industry has a secure future. In order for the CFP to function effectively, it is essential that good governance principles are embodied into the Policy. The new CFP must therefore aim at ensuring: - openness and transparency, in particular by improving the quality and transparency of the scientific advice and data on the basis of which policy decisions are taken; - participation, through greater and broader stakeholder involvement from conception to implementation of policy, including at local and regional level; - accountability, through a clearer definition of responsibilities at European, national and local level; - effectiveness, through decision-making processes whose results are properly evaluated, controlled and complied with and - coherence with other Community policies, in particular environment and development policies, through a cross-sectoral approach. The Commission proposes to do away with the annual ritual of setting fishing quotas at too high levels. In future, TACs would be fixed within a multi-annual management plan, on the basis of the most recent scientific advice to ensure that enough fish stay in the sea to replenish the stocks. The Commission intends to tackle excess fleet capacity by ending public aid for introducing new fishing vessels. More EU money would be available to help fishermen to find alternative work and for the restructuring of the sector. The Commission also advocates uniform and tougher sanctions across the EU. Controls would be reinforced by setting up a Joint EU Inspection Structure. To bring the CFP closer to fishermen, the industry, NGOs, regions and other stakeholders, the Commission is proposing the creation of Regional Advisory Councils. To achieve sustainable fisheries beyond EU waters on the basis of stronger international co-operation, the reform package includes an action plan against illegal fishing and a strategy for EU fisheries development partnerships with third countries. The present Communication now presents the first package of reform proposals. These are: - Council Regulation on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the CFP, establishing the framework within which conservation measures, measures to adjust fishing capacity and control and enforcement measures may be taken under the CFP. The Regulation should enter into force by 1 January 2003. - Council Regulation establishing an emergency Community measure for the scrapping of fishing vessels over the period 2003-2006. The Regulation should enter into force by 1 January 2003. - Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No2792/1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance to the fisheries sector. The Regulation should enter into force by 1 January 2003. - Action Plan to integrate environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy. - Action Plan for the eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). The Commission will also come forward with the following legislative proposals and other actions for Reform as follows: - Action Plan to counter the social, economic and regional consequences of the restructuring of the EU fishing industry. It will be presented in the second half of 2002. - Report on economic management of fisheries within the Union. The Commission will present its report to the other European Institutions in 2003. - Action Plan for the improvement of scientific advice for fisheries management. The Action plan will be presented in the second half of 2002. - Action Plan on discards. The Action Plan will be presented in the second half of 2002. - Action Plan for fisheries management in the Mediterranean. The Action Plan will be presented in the second half of 2002. - Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries in Europe. ACFA will be invited to develop such a Code by the end of 2002. - Integrated Framework for fisheries partnerships at national and regional level. The Framework will be presented in the second half of 2002. - Action Plan to improve stock evaluation in non-Community waters. The Action Plan will be presented before the end of 2002. - Action Plan for co-operation in enforcement. The Action Plan will be presented in the second half of 2002. - Communication on a Joint Inspection Structure. The Communication will be presented before the end of 2002. The Joint Inspection Structure should be in place by mid-2004. - Strategy for the development of European Aquaculture. The strategy will be presented in the second half of 2002. - Communication on transparency, performance and compliance: The Communication will be presented in the second half of 2002.?

Common Fisheries Policy CFP: reform action programme and roadmap

The committee adopted the report initially drawn up by Camilo NOGUEIRA ROMÁN (Greens/EFA, E), who asked for his name to be withdrawn from the final report after it was heavily amended in committee. The committee therefore decided to table the report under the name of its chairman, Struan STEVENSON (EPP-ED, UK). The report as finally adopted, expressing qualified support for the Commission's "roadmap" for reforming the Common Fisheries Policy, was considerably less critical of the Commission than the rapporteur's original text. However, the committee criticised the Commission for its delay in presenting its proposals, urging it to avoid a "legal void" which could seriously jeopardise stocks if the reform package was not approved by the end of 2002. It also asked the Commission to give priority to economic and social measures intended to soften the impact of reform, and argued that fisheries should be regarded as an economic and social sector which must be preserved. On resource conservation and fisheries management, the committee called for greater investment in scientific research and development and for the application of the precautionary principle to the CFP, stressing that it must be applied to all fishery sectors including industrial fisheries. Management of fish stocks should be differentiated on the basis of the situation of each species. Although the committee agreed that the viability of the CFP depended on reducing both capacity and effort, it wanted the Commission to take account of previous efforts made by Member States when coming up with proposals for scrapping. On access to waters and resources, the Commission was urged to protect the already endangered stocks of the North Sea and ensure that any consideration of open access to the North Sea was ruled out, in the absence of scientific evidence regarding non-quota species, risks of by-catches of quota species and other potential harm to the marine environment. MEPs also called for the 6-12-mile coastal zones to be installed as a permanent feature of the CFP. On monitoring and implementation, MEPs welcomed plans to harmonise monitoring of the CFP and called for the introduction of standard minimum penalties in the EU for infringements. They warned, however, that the Commission's resources and staff needed to be increased. They also felt that the establishment of Regional Advisory Committees would boost the effectiveness of monitoring at local level. On international fisheries, the committee agreed that the Community's activities must ensure sustainable and responsible fisheries and must function according to the same standards as in EU waters. The Commission and Council should adopt minimum standards for the conclusion of international agreements, based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. There should also be closer coordination between the EU's development cooperation policy and the external aspects of the CFP. The committee was opposed to the imposition of unilateral limits on Community fishing in international Mediterranean waters, pointing out that this would achieve very little if third countries did not also apply those limits. Turning to aquaculture, the committee expressed concern at the potentially damaging environmental consequences and called for a clear and coherent strategy for the sustainable development of this sector. The Commission was urged to develop an integrated approach to the processing industry in the context of CFP reform, including strengthening support mechanisms to offset the impact of further liberalisation of fishery product prices, especially on the canning industry.?

Common Fisheries Policy CFP: reform action programme and roadmap

The European Parliament adopted a resolution which was initially drawn up by Camilo NOGUEIRA ROMAN (Greens/EFA, Spain) but taken under the name of Struan STEVENSON (EPP-ED, UK). (Please refer to the document dated 5/11/02.) Parliament stressed that the Commission's multiannual management plans can only achieve their objective if the targets are set at sufficiently conservative levels and the plans themselves are adaptive in nature. The management plans must be multiannual and multi-species. Discards must be minimised. Parliament stated that areas where fisheries are restricted, either by closed seasons, boxes or restricted access to local waters, should be based on scientific criteria designed to protect resources. The 6-12 mile coastal zones should be established as an element of the CFP for an unlimited period, if legally possible, in order to promote conservation and encourage the development of small-scale fisheries. In any case, that the derogation concerning free access must be extended to 50 miles in the case of the most remote regions, pursuant to Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty. The Commission is asked to study the feasibility of giving consideration to the environmental impact of particular fleets, so that those fishing fleets using gears and methods which have reduced environmental impact can be given preferential access to fish stocks. In relation to international agreements, Parliament felt that fisheries agreements must remain in the public sector, negotiated and administered by the Commission, as this is the only way to maintain a degree of transparency and accountability. It decried the increasing trend to private arrangements, over which the EU authorities have no control whatsoever. Finally, Parliament felt that fishermen's support for fisheries regulations will be improved by involving fishermen's organisations and other interested parties in the decision-making process, thereby establishing greater confidence in the validity of the scientific basis of the system.?