


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2003/2039(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Common fisheries policy CFP: restructuring, action programme		
Subject 3.15 Fisheries policy		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>PECH</b> Fisheries	PSE <a href="#">FAVA Claudio</a>	10/12/2002
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		25/03/2003
	<b>RETT</b> Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG <a href="#">Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</a>	Commissioner	

Key events			
06/11/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	<a href="#">COM(2002)0600</a>	Summary
13/03/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/05/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
20/05/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0162/2003</a>	
03/06/2003	Debate in Parliament		
04/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0240/2003</a>	Summary
04/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/03/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2039(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/5/19326

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	<a href="#">COM(2002)0600</a>	06/11/2002	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES0579/2003</a> <a href="#">OJ C 208 03.09.2003, p. 0022-0026</a>	14/05/2003	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A5-0162/2003</a>	20/05/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	<a href="#">T5-0240/2003</a> OJ C 068 18.03.2004, p. 0000-0000 E	04/06/2003	EP	Summary

## Common fisheries policy CFP: restructuring, action programme

**PURPOSE** : to propose an Action Plan to counter the social, economic and regional consequences of the restructuring of the EU fishing industry. **CONTENT** : the European Commission has proposed this action plan to respond to the potential social, economic and regional consequences of restructuring the fishing industry caused by the dire state of several fish stocks. This action plan, which was prepared after consultations with the Member States, identifies the possible impact of the fishing effort limitation in certain areas for certain stocks proposed by the Commission in the context of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The present Communication from the Commission thus includes: - an assessment of the likely socio-economic impacts of fishing effort limitations and reductions in vessel numbers in particular a review of the provisional estimate of lost jobs; - a review of all the existing means to alleviate these impacts within the existing Community aid regimes (FIFG, ERDF and ESF2); - an overview of additional means which could become available in the short term through the reform of the CFP and the reprogramming of the Structural Funds; - an analysis of further options for the longer term. The measures set out in the action plan should be used by Member States to alleviate the short-term consequences of the proposed conservation measures for affected fishermen and other operators in the fishing industry. They include the reprogramming of € 611 million under the FIFG for social measures and for reducing fleet capacity, specific measures in favour of small-scale fishing, the improvement of living and working conditions on board, as well as social protection in the fisheries sector and measures to help young fishermen. Bilateral consultations with Member States have confirmed that it is not possible at this stage to make a reliable estimate of affected jobs, as no decision has been taken yet on multi-annual management plans.?

## Common fisheries policy CFP: restructuring, action programme

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Giovanni FAVA (PES, I) on the Commission's proposed Action Plan. It called on the Commission to update the Plan to counter the socio-economic consequences of the ongoing reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The committee said that the Commission's figures regarding job losses over the 2003-2006 period were inaccurate because, while the net result of the Council's decisions in December 2002 would be to alleviate job losses, the unexpected severity of the "cod crisis" in the North Sea could lead to the loss of up to 40 000 jobs, mainly in Scotland. The report also pointed out that none of the Commission's recovery plans for endangered stocks - whose socio-economic consequences are expected to be severe - had yet been adopted by the Council. MEPs therefore underlined the need to include "additional special financing" for social measures in a revised plan - including EUR 150 million for areas affected by the cod crisis. This reflected the view that the funding of these measures should not depend on the re-programming of existing funds, which is up to the Member States, who are sometimes reluctant to alter spending priorities given that such measures require matching funds from national budgets. The report therefore asked the Commission "to guarantee economic and social cohesion in areas dependent on fisheries", particularly for small-scale fisheries and in the outermost regions.?

## Common fisheries policy CFP: restructuring, action programme

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report by Giovanni FAVA (PES, Italy) on EU fisheries restructuring. (Please see the document dated 20/05/03.) Parliament stated that a crucial part of the common fisheries policy (CFP) is to join the promotion of a viable economic sector, of strategic importance to the European Union, with socio-economic cohesion in the Union's coastal regions, which are dependent on fisheries. Small-scale fisheries deserve special attention since they constitute 75% of the total number of Community vessels and employ 44% of the people working in the sector. The loss of 28 000 on-board jobs leads to social, cultural and economic desertification of coastal areas, which are part of the Union's heritage and which are highly dependent on fisheries and often have little opportunities for diversification beyond fisheries. Parliament asked the Commission to ensure that measures are taken to guarantee economic and social cohesion in areas dependent on fisheries, including the outermost regions, so as to enable them to become financially self-reliant. Parliament went on to state that the amendments made by the Council to the Commission package in December 2002 were unlikely to

facilitate the implementation of the reform and the planned re-programming of the FIG. It asked the Commission to provide it with an updated version of the Action Plan. Parliament referred to the financial resources available under Heading 2 of the Financial Perspective for the fisheries sector and the fisheries-dependent areas. For the period 2000-2006, these can be estimated at EUR 28 billion (EUR 3,7 billion under FIG, EUR 19,2 billion under ERDF and EUR 5,17 billion under ESF). It called for additional special financing which did not affect the funding already allocated to the sector for structural adjustments (FIG), in order to counter any negative socio-economic consequences as a result of restructuring measures within the sector, including recovery plans, so as to ensure that it becomes financially self-reliant. It also called for EUR 150 million to deal with the result of the cod conservation measures.?