


Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2017(INI)
Procedure completed	
Tuna: fleet and industry. Evolution and future in the European Union and in the world	
Subject	
3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources	
3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products	
3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		12/11/2002
		PPE-DE VARELA SUANZES-CARPEGNA Daniel	

Key events			
13/03/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
25/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0412/2003	
13/01/2004	Debate in Parliament		
14/01/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0016/2004	Summary
14/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2017(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/5/19309

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0412/2003	25/11/2003	EP

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0016/2004 OJ C 092 16.04.2004, p. 0126-0247 E	14/01/2004	EP	Summary
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Tuna: fleet and industry. Evolution and future in the European Union and in the world

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Daniel VARELA SUANZES-CARPEGNA (EPP-ED, E) on the situation and future prospects of the tuna fleet and industry in the EU and worldwide. The report began by pointing out that tuna was currently the world's most commercially valuable fish species and was therefore of great importance to the future of the EU fishing industry. The canning industry directly employed 40 000 people in the EU and the market for tuna products was enjoying buoyant growth. Moreover, the EU had the world's largest tuna fleet by capacity, with average catches of 350 000 tonnes a year. However, the committee warned that more needed to be done in favour of the sector, whose commercial viability was being undermined by EU policy. The report argued that tuna products from third countries should be required to meet the same food quality and health standards applied to Community produce. Otherwise, the market would continue to be distorted by unfair competition. MEPs said that the inspection regime should be intensified and pointed to the need to create laboratories to test imported products and uphold standards. They also called for a review of Community customs legislation affecting the European tuna industry, in the wake of tariff quotas awarded to south-east Asian countries seen as damaging to EU interests. The committee noted that several tuna stocks were under pressure, at least in part owing to an excess of fishing capacity, and were particularly vulnerable to fishing from illegal vessels or to those flying flags of convenience. It said that a coordinated approach was needed among all countries concerned to prevent over-fishing, and therefore urged the EU to take the initiative in RFOs to adapt fleet capacity to available resources. In particular, RFOs should establish a list of individual vessels "which comply with the relevant rules", which would be allowed to fish. All others should be excluded from the list and even subjected to commercial penalties. Such actions would require cooperation among the various RFOs. In the light of these concerns, the report called on the Commission to draw up an action plan and "structural support framework" for the sector. It also argued that the importance of the regulatory role of RFOs meant that a new unit should be created within the Fisheries DG to deal with tuna and other highly migratory species, with "sufficient staff and economic resources". ?

Tuna: fleet and industry. Evolution and future in the European Union and in the world

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Daniel VARELA SUANZES-CARPEGNA (EPP-ED, E) calling on the Commission to submit proposals to the Council and Parliament providing for a specific action plan and an overall structural support framework for the tuna sector, together with a plan to protect the tuna sector in the face of third countries. (Please see the summary dated 25/11/03.) Parliament also asked the Commission to clarify the relationship between the 'dolphin-safe' label that is managed by the AIDCP (an intergovernmental body to which the EU belongs) and any other 'dolphin-safe' label marketed in the EU. Any 'dolphin-safe' label allowed on the EU market must be transparent in its criteria and operation and reliable for consumers, so that they can trust the information on the label. Finally, Parliament asked the Commission to create, following the Tuna Days held on 5 and 6 June 2003, a specific advisory committee on tropical tuna so that representatives of the Community tuna fleet and industry can exchange ideas within an institutional framework, thereby making the coordination of Community policies affecting the sector more effective. ?