


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2004/2262(INI)	Procedure completed
Industrial fisheries and the production of fishmeal		
Subject 3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		25/11/2004
		PPE-DE STEVENSON Struan	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	BORG Joe	

Key events			
13/01/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/05/2005	Vote in committee		Summary
25/05/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0155/2005	
10/07/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/07/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0327/2007	Summary
10/07/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2004/2262(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/6/25353

Documentation gateway					
Amendments tabled in committee		PE357.774	03/05/2005	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0155/2005	25/05/2005	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0327/2007	10/07/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)4170	29/08/2007	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)4733	24/09/2007	EC	

Industrial fisheries and the production of fishmeal

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Struan STEVENSON (EPP-ED, UK) on industrial fisheries and the production of fishmeal and fish oil. The report referred to the ban on feeding fishmeal to ruminants imposed by the Commission in 2001 as a precautionary measure introduced by Council Decision 2000/766/EC in the wake of the BSE scare in the EU.

The report welcomed the Commission Communication on improving the monitoring of industrial fishing within the EU and stressed the importance of continuing research into the impact of industrial fisheries on other fisheries and on the wider marine environment with a view to keeping all fishing activities at a sustainable level and rewarding those fisherman using the most environmentally friendly techniques.

The committee expressed concern about the problem of discards from marine fisheries, which is estimated in Europe to account for up to 1 million tonnes annually. It called on the Commission to carry out studies and/or pilot projects to investigate the current situation of discards and the possibilities for their use by the industrial fishing sector in such a way as to ensure that this would not lead to over-exploitation of resources. It also suggested that use of discards by the fishmeal and fish oil industry should be examined by the Commission, in close collaboration with Parliament's Fisheries Committee, given the swiftly expanding EU aquaculture sector (fishmeal and fish oil are used as a basic feed stock for farmed fish).

The report stressed the controls in place in the EU to limit the presence of undesirable substances and contaminants in animal feeds, ensuring that fishmeal and fish oil remain well within the limits, and called on the Commission and Member States to monitor closely the application of the existing controls. It stressed the need for the industry to apply the ALARA (As low as reasonably achievable) principle at all times when dealing with dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs and called for scientific analysis to determine acceptable limit values for dioxin in fishmeal for feeding pigs and poultry.

Lastly the committee stressed that there is no scientific evidence to support banning fishmeal on the grounds that it may transmit BSE or other TSEs and that there are no ethical reasons for prohibiting the use of fishmeal in EU ruminants' diets. It therefore called on the Commission and Council to lift the ban on feeding fishmeal and fish oil to ruminants.

Industrial fisheries and the production of fishmeal

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report by Struan STEVENSON (EPP-ED, UK) on industrial fisheries and the production of fishmeal and fish oil.

The Parliament stressed that there is no scientific evidence to support banning fishmeal on the grounds that it may transmit BSE or other TSEs and that there are no ethical reasons for prohibiting the use of fishmeal in EU ruminants' diets. It therefore called on the Commission and Council to lift the ban on feeding fishmeal and fish oil to ruminants.

This recommendation is based on the measures in Regulation (EC) No 1923/2006 prohibits the feeding of animal protein to ruminants, but enables the Commission to grant derogations for feeding fishmeal to young ruminants, provided that such derogations are based on a scientific assessment of the dietary needs of young ruminants and follow an assessment of the control aspects. The Parliament recalls its position adopted on 17 May 2006, which provided, in relation to Article 7 of that Regulation, for a derogation allowing, in certain circumstances, the feeding of young animals of ruminant species with proteins derived from fish.

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