

Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2008/2222(INI)
Applied research relating to the common fisheries policy	Procedure completed
Subject	
3.15 Fisheries policy	
3.50.01.05 Research specific areas	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	PSE MIGUÉLEZ RAMOS Rosa	10/09/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	POTOČNIK Janez	

Key events			
23/09/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
26/01/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0016/2009	
18/02/2009	Debate in Parliament		
19/02/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/02/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0065/2009	Summary
19/02/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2222(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54; Rules of Procedure EP 54-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/6/64838

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE414.985	10/11/2008	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE416.567	08/12/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0016/2009	26/01/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0065/2009	19/02/2009	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2009)2154	26/06/2009	EC	

Applied research relating to the common fisheries policy

The Committee on Fisheries adopted an own initiative report by Rosa MIGUÉLEZ RAMOS (PES, ES) on applied research relating to the common fisheries policy.

MEPs are convinced that it is necessary, in the policies pursued with regard to research, to pay greater attention to the specific problems of fisheries and aquaculture in view of this sector's economic, social and political importance in the EU.

The report deplores that the 7th framework programme does not consider either fisheries or aquaculture as specific strands and calls on the Commission to review the 7th framework programme when the mid-term evaluation is carried out, scheduled for 2010, paying greater attention to the specific problems of fisheries and aquaculture. In particular, MEPs call on the Commission to ensure that the funding of applied research in the field of the CFP under the 7th framework programme is used as a lever to promote synergies between research efforts in the various Member States and attain the critical mass necessary to meet the great challenges of cross-thematic marine research.

The Committee on Fisheries also recommends that, in the field of scientific marine research, priority be given not only to research to gain knowledge of the state of fish stocks but also to the commercial, economic and social aspects that determine fisheries management, since all these aspects are of crucial importance. MEPs stress that, in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture, priority should be given to applied research.

The report notes a clear conflict of interest between fishermen and scientists in the short term (whereas their long-term objectives appear to be more compatible), and calls on the Commission to promote closer collaboration between scientists and fishermen and to gather specific information on the way in which the dialogue between scientists and fishermen currently operates in the various Member States and to list best practices.

Lastly, MEPs stress the worrying problem of the deficit of young scientists in applied research in the fisheries sector, because careers are not very attractive compared to basic research and other scientific disciplines. They stress the need to re-establish interesting and status-enhancing university degree courses leading on to remunerative careers for this scientific path.

Applied research relating to the common fisheries policy

The European Parliament adopted by 616 votes to 18, with 24 abstentions, a resolution on applied research relating to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

MEPs are convinced that it is necessary, in the policies pursued with regard to research, to pay greater attention to the specific problems of fisheries and aquaculture in view of this sector's economic, social and political importance in the EU.

Review the 7th Framework Programme: the resolution deplores that the 7th Framework Programme does not consider either fisheries or aquaculture as specific strands and calls on the Commission to review the 7th Framework Programme when the mid-term evaluation is carried out, scheduled for 2010, paying greater attention to the specific problems of fisheries and aquaculture. MEPs stress that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the CFP, specific programmes need to be put in place in the field of applied research, and their funding needs to be ensured through an adequate budget allocation.

New priorities: the Parliament also recommends that, in the field of scientific marine research, priority be given not only to research to gain knowledge of the state of fish stocks but also to the ecosystemic, commercial, economic and social aspects that determine fisheries management, since all these aspects are of crucial importance.

Dialogue between fishermen and scientists: the resolution notes a clear conflict of interest between fishermen and scientists in the short term (whereas their long-term objectives appear to be more compatible), and calls on the Commission to promote closer collaboration between scientists and fishermen and to gather specific information on the way in which the dialogue between scientists and fishermen currently operates in the various Member States and to list best practices.

Moreover, the Commission and the Member States are called upon to demonstrate and better convey to fishermen that it is in their interests to take into account the economic benefit that they can expect in the medium or long term in the assessment of their presumed short-term economic loss.

Attracting young scientists: MEPs stress the worrying problem of the deficit of young scientists in applied research in the fisheries sector, because careers are not very attractive compared to basic research and other scientific disciplines. They stress the need to re-establish interesting and status-enhancing university degree courses leading on to remunerative careers for this scientific path.

Information exchange: lastly, the Parliament urges the Commission to promote the creation of a stable European network, based on the existing physical infrastructure in the Member States and geared to the observation of and collection of data on the marine environment, that

would facilitate the exchange of information between operators in the sector and European research bodies, and would maintain the EU in a position of excellence.