

Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2010/2113(INI)
Procedure completed	
Current and future management of Black Sea fisheries	
Subject 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds 3.15.15 Fisheries agreements and cooperation	
Geographical area Black Sea area	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	S&D IOTOVA Iliana	18/05/2010
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner DAMANAKI Maria	

Key events			
08/07/2010	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/06/2011	Vote in committee		Summary
20/06/2011	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0236/2011	
12/09/2011	Debate in Parliament		
13/09/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/09/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0365/2011	Summary
13/09/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2010/2113(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/7/03014

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE460.964	24/03/2011	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE464.729	02/05/2011	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0236/2011	20/06/2011	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0365/2011	13/09/2011	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2011)8668	20/12/2011	EC	

Current and future management of Black Sea fisheries

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the own-initiative report by Iliana Malinova IOTOVA (S&D, BG) on the current and future management of Black Sea fisheries.

It points out that until today there has been loose, or even non-existent, collaboration, a lack of a harmonised legislative framework and a lack of a common legislative act governing fishing activities between the Black Sea states, owing to the fact that all the waters are under the jurisdiction of different coastal states, as well as to the general lack of adequate, systematic research and scientific information on the Black Sea basin. Management of fisheries in the Black Sea is extremely difficult, because only two out of the six countries bordering the basin are EU Member States and even those two are new Member States which only joined the EU in 2007. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), whose mandate covers the area of the Black Sea, does not as yet meet the needs and expectations of the stakeholders, particularly fishermen, to the extent possible, and should make use of all available tools related to this area.

The committee states that the Black Sea needs a special policy to preserve and improve the situation of fisheries resources and ensure that the fisheries sector is suited to the Black Sea basin, bearing in mind the specificities of the Black Sea region, as well as the fact that the Black Sea fisheries policy should be integral part of the upcoming reform of the CFP. Members underline the need for more accurate analytical and scientific research coordinated at a regional, national and European level to preserve and improve fisheries resources and ecosystems in the Black Sea basin. They take the view that the Black Sea should have an appropriate status in Community policies, and to this end appropriate diplomatic and scientific efforts should be undertaken and adequate financial resources made available for sustainable fisheries in the basin. The lack of a common agreement among the six countries bordering the Black Sea could be remedied by a framework agreement negotiated, for instance, on the basis of a communication from the Commission, in which the interests of all parties would be expressed and taken into consideration.

Whilst expressing satisfaction with the Commission's efforts to establish working groups in the field of fisheries management with Turkey and the Russian Federation, the report points out that a large part of the problems of the Black Sea is the result of the lack of an appropriate institutional structure that coordinates and carries out the management of Black Sea fisheries at a professional and specialised level. Whilst negotiations have been continuing between the national administrations for the past ten years on the creation of such an institutional structure, these have not yet been successful, and no adequate measures have been taken to control catches and, in particular, cross-border fishing. Accordingly, Members take the view that a separate regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) for the Black Sea could in the long term foster and promote communication between scientific institutes and professional organisations of fishermen, producers and processors with a view to settling issues and deepening cooperation in the Black Sea. They encourage the Commission to work with the Black Sea countries at a bilateral level, bearing in mind that many of them are not members of the EU. The RFMO would coordinate scientific research, analyse the situation of fish stocks and carry out special policies regarding observation of endangered species. It could also make suggestions regarding the level of the fisheries multiannual management plans and distribute the quotas for the countries bordering the Black Sea.

Members urge the EU to use its diplomatic resources to convince as many non-EU Black Sea littoral countries as possible of the value of the principles of the EU Common Fisheries Policy, especially with regard to the application of the multiannual management plans. They feel that EU tools should be used in scientific activities as an instrument to foster and facilitate cooperation and joint work between the European scientific teams and their counterparts from the Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Georgia and Turkey. The EU's Common Fisheries Policy should encourage the establishment of professional fishermen's organisations and inter-branch organisations in the fisheries and aquaculture industries in the Black Sea where they are lacking or very underdeveloped. Members believe that the principles of annual TACs and quotas currently applied should not be the only option for the management of Black Sea fisheries. Multiannual management plans should be fostered and could provide for more clarity on the EU's objectives in the field of fisheries in the Black Sea region and its vision for the future of the basin. Such plans are of very great interest for both the economic situation of the fishing sector and the environmental situation of the Black Sea ecosystems. This approach should be accompanied by effective control of catches.

The report goes on to stress the importance of managing fisheries with a view to ensuring that ecosystems are viable and sustainable, that fishing is carried out legally and that action is taken against IUU fishing. It calls for the establishment of a European coastguard in order to develop cooperation between Member States in an effective way so as to boost maritime security and combat new threats at sea, in particular in the Black Sea.

Lastly, Members underline the need to encourage scientific research on Black Sea issues, so that the decisions taken by the European, regional and national authorities responsible can take account of their economic, social and environmental consequences. They believe it is necessary to conduct detailed, coordinated research in order to give a clear and unequivocal answer to the questions of fisheries management and the possible impact of fishing methods (e.g. trawling on the seabed), since in the absence of studies on their effects no serious conclusions can be drawn. Furthermore, research programmes and projects in the field of Black Sea fisheries, such as SESAME, KNOWSEAS, WISER and BlackSeaFish, should be further encouraged.

Current and future management of Black Sea fisheries

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the current and future management of Black Sea fisheries. It points out that the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) should take into account the specificities and needs of this aquatory, because this will be the first reform of the CFP incorporating the Black Sea. Members note that until today there has been loose, or even non-existent, collaboration, a lack of a harmonised legislative framework and a lack of a common legislative act governing fishing activities between the Black Sea states, owing to the fact that all the waters are under the jurisdiction of different coastal states, as well as to the general lack of adequate, systematic research and scientific information on the Black Sea basin. Management of fisheries in the Black Sea is extremely difficult, because only two out of the six countries bordering the basin are EU Member States and even those two are new Member States which only joined the EU in 2007. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), whose mandate covers the area of the Black Sea, does not as yet meet the needs and expectations of the stakeholders, particularly fishermen, to the extent possible, and should make use of all available tools related to this area.

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