


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2007/2109(INI)	Procedure completed
Common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products		
Subject 3.15.02 Aquaculture 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds 3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products 3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner BORG Joe	

Key events			
28/09/2006	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2006)0558	Summary
06/06/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/11/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
26/11/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0467/2007	
12/12/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/12/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0606/2007	Summary
12/12/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2109(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/6/47476

Documentation gateway					
Follow-up document		COM(2006)0558	29/09/2006	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE393.946	10/09/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE396.452	10/10/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0467/2007	26/11/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0606/2007	12/12/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)0411	23/01/2008	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)0532	25/02/2008	EC	

Common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products

The Committee on Fisheries adopted a report drawn up by Pedro GUERREIRO (GUE/NGL, PT) following the Commission's report to the Council and the European Parliament of 29 September 2006 on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products.

Members welcomed the Commission's decision to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the existing COM in fisheries and aquaculture products, but regretted the delay of almost a year in submitting the evaluation report. It was necessary, as a matter of urgency, to carry out a far-reaching revision of the COM in fisheries products in order to boost its contribution to guaranteeing incomes in the sector, ensuring market stability, improving the marketing of fisheries products and increasing the value added generated. The Commission was asked submit a communication on the guidelines and a proposal for the revision of the COM in fisheries products, taking account of the proposals set out in the report.

The contribution of the COM in fisheries products to the sector has fallen, especially since the 2000 revision. Members felt that the reversal of this trend, notably by a significant reinforcement of financial resources, must be one of the main objectives of a future revision of the COM in fisheries products, thus enabling it to guarantee Community funding at an adequate level for the fisheries sector's needs. They noted that the existing intervention mechanisms were characterised by a high level of concentration, and called on the Commission to determine whether these mechanisms were the most suitable ones and whether they were sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of the existing structures of production/marketing in the Member States, in order to improve the marketing of fish and ensure a fair income for producers. They also believed it essential to provide increased funding for the COM in fishery products in the forthcoming revision.

The Committee stated that the compensatory payment for tuna should be extended, and also called on the Commission to introduce a compensatory payment for sardines, as Parliament had previously asked.

The report stressed the importance of labelling and of accurate consumer information, with a view to boosting the quality and value added of fisheries products. Commercial designations, notably for imported products, needed to be examined and checked to ensure that consumers were not misled. The Commission was asked to accelerate the process of ecological certification of fishery products, since this was vital if competition between economic agents within and outside the EU were to take place on an equitable footing.

Members emphasised the need for the Structural Funds to contribute to the modernisation and creation of support infrastructures for producers in the context of production/marketing, covering units for refrigeration, processing, transport and marketing/distribution. They also emphasised that the intervention mechanisms must take account of the increased durability of fisheries products, and called for greater support for the improvement of the on-board handling of fish, especially investment in refrigeration and packaging systems and the improvement of on-board health and safety.

The Committee went on to stress the need for reinforcing the mechanisms of support, especially financial, for promoting the concentration of supply, notably via the funding of producers' organisations, and above all for small-scale coastal and traditional fisheries. The operational programmes should ensure - with suitable financial support -the possibility of the producers' organisations marketing their products directly to boost the value added of fisheries products. And the Regulation should be suitably amended. The Committee also called for an amendment in order to maintain the direct link of aid to the producers' organisations in the Community budget, while also opening up the possibility of complementary aids in support of the operational programmes on the part of the Member States.

The report recommended that the Commission should evaluate the consequences of relations with third countries, and notably the impact of imports on prices at the initial point of sale. It called on the Commission to take a firmer line in its evaluation of external trade relations, especially when activating the WTO safeguard mechanisms so as not to compromise the objectives of Article 33 of the Treaty. It was vital to ensure the application to imported fisheries products sold on the internal market of the same rules and requirements as those applied to Community fisheries products, e.g. in terms of labelling, phytosanitary rules or the prohibition on the Community market of fisheries products under the minimum sizes authorised for Community products.

Common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drawn up by Pedro GUERREIRO (GUE/NGL, PT) following the Commission's report of 29 September 2006 on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products. The resolution was adopted by 379 votes for, 30 against and 227 abstentions.

Members welcomed the Commission's decision to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the existing COM in fisheries and aquaculture products, but regretted the delay of almost a year in submitting the evaluation report. It was necessary, as a matter of urgency, to carry out a far-reaching revision of the COM in fisheries products in order to boost its contribution to guaranteeing incomes in the sector, ensuring market stability, improving the marketing of fisheries products and increasing the value added generated. The Commission was asked submit a communication on the guidelines and a proposal for the revision of the COM in fisheries products, taking account of the proposals set out in the resolution. Parliament stressed the need to involve the main economic agents in the sector, especially fishermen and their representative organisations, in the process of revision of the COM in fisheries products, especially during the present evaluation period.

The contribution of the COM in fisheries products to the sector has fallen, especially since the 2000 revision. Members felt that the reversal of this trend, notably by a significant reinforcement of financial resources, must be one of the main objectives of a future revision of the COM in fisheries products, thus enabling it to guarantee Community funding at an adequate level for the fisheries sector's needs. They noted that the existing intervention mechanisms were characterised by a high level of concentration, and called on the Commission to determine whether these mechanisms were the most suitable ones and whether they were sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of the existing structures of production/marketing in the Member States, in order to improve the marketing of fish and ensure a fair income for producers. They also believed it essential to provide increased funding for the COM in fishery products in the forthcoming revision.

Parliament stated that the compensatory payment for tuna should be extended, and also called on the Commission to introduce a compensatory payment for sardines, as Parliament had previously asked.

The resolution stressed the importance of labelling and of accurate consumer information, with a view to boosting the quality and value added of fisheries products. Commercial designations, notably for imported products, needed to be examined and checked to ensure that consumers were not misled. The Commission was asked to accelerate the process of ecological certification of fishery products, since this was vital if competition between economic agents within and outside the EU were to take place on an equitable footing.

Members emphasised the need for the Structural Funds to contribute to the modernisation and creation of support infrastructures for producers in the context of production/marketing, covering units for refrigeration, processing, transport and marketing/distribution. They also emphasised that the intervention mechanisms must take account of the increased durability of fisheries products, and called for greater support for the improvement of the on-board handling of fish, especially investment in refrigeration and packaging systems and the improvement of on-board health and safety.

Parliament went on to stress the need for reinforcing the mechanisms of support, especially financial, for promoting the concentration of supply, notably via the funding of producers' organisations, and above all for small-scale coastal and traditional fisheries. The operational programmes should ensure - with suitable financial support - the possibility of the producers' organisations marketing their products directly to boost the value added of fisheries products. The Regulation should be suitably amended. Parliament also called for an amendment in order to maintain the direct link of aid to the producers' organisations in the Community budget, while also opening up the possibility of complementary aids in support of the operational programmes on the part of the Member States.

The resolution recommended that the Commission should evaluate the consequences of relations with third countries, and notably the impact of imports on prices at the initial point of sale. It called on the Commission to take a firmer line in its evaluation of external trade relations, especially when activating the WTO safeguard mechanisms so as not to compromise the objectives of Article 33 of the Treaty. It was vital to ensure the application to imported fisheries products sold on the internal market of the same rules and requirements as those applied to Community fisheries products, e.g. in terms of labelling, phytosanitary rules or the prohibition on the Community market of fisheries products under the minimum sizes authorised for Community products.