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A6-0078/2007

27.3.2007

REPORT

on the proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 2004/585/EC
establishing Regional Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy
(COM(2006)0732 – C6-0051/2007 – 2006/0240(CNS))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Elspeth Attwooll

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission.)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

CONTENTS

	Page
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6
PROCEDURE.....	7

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 2004/585/EC establishing Regional Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy (COM(2006)0732 – C6-0051/2007 – 2006/0240(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2006)0732)¹,
 - having regard to Article 37 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C6-0051/2007),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries (A6-0078/2007),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
 2. Recognises that the current proposal relates only to the financial aspects of Regional Advisory Councils and that other aspects remain to be resolved at the time of the forthcoming review, in particular those relating to their number and composition;
 3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to amend the Commission proposal substantially;
 5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The purpose of the Commission proposal is to put Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) on a sounder operational basis by improving the conditions under which they are funded. This is to be effected by mainstreaming them into the budget, meaning a) that the Community contribution no longer needs to be a digressive one and b) that they are subject to a single method of accounting, rather than two separate procedures as at present.

The proposal is a very welcome one. The Parliament has been consistent in its support for the greater engagement of stakeholders in the development of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). It endorsed the principle of the regionalised input into the decision making process in its 2001 resolution on the Commission Green Paper on the future of the CFP¹ and approved the actual establishment of RACs in its report of 2003². In the latter, however, as it has done on a number of occasions since, Parliament called for a level and method of funding that would be adequate to support their effective and continued functioning.

Currently, four of the seven intended RACs are fully operational, with others likely to come on-stream in the near future. Moreover, an Inter-RAC Committee has been established to coordinate their activities. Recommendations and advice have been given to the Commission on more than 80 occasions and the RACs have also made a valuable contribution to the deliberations of the Parliament's Fisheries Committee.

It is appropriate, therefore, to take steps to ensure their long-term financial viability. For the avoidance of doubt, the proposal does not affect any other aspect of the RAC's composition and workings, which, indeed, will form the subject of a review to be published later this year. The Fisheries Committee awaits this with interest.

¹ Miguélez Ramos, COS/2001/2115, (COM(2001)0135), OJ C 271 07.11.2002.

² O'Neachtain Report, CNS/2003/0238, (COM(2003)0607), OJ L 256 03.08.2004, p. 0017-0022.

PROCEDURE

Title	Amendment of Decision 2004/585/EC establishing Regional Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy	
References	COM(2006)0732 - C6-0051/2007 - 2006/0240(CNS)	
Date of consulting Parliament	19.1.2007	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	PECH 1.2.2007	
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	BUDG 1.2.2007	
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	BUDG 14.2.2007	
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Elspeth Attwooll 9.1.2007	
Discussed in committee	25.1.2007	27.2.2007
Date adopted	22.3.2007	
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 1 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Jim Allister, Alfonso Andria, Stavros Arnaoutakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Marie-Hélène Aubert, Iles Braghetto, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Paulo Casaca, Zdzisław Kazimierz Chmielewski, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Duarte Freitas, Ioannis Gklavakis, Pedro Guerreiro, Ian Hudghton, Heinz Kindermann, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Marianne Mikko, Philippe Morillon, Seán Ó Neachtain, Willi Piecyk, Struan Stevenson, Catherine Stihler, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Vincenzo Aita, Ole Christensen, Jan Mulder, Thomas Wise	