

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Question O-0056/99

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr Busk

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the EC-Morocco Fisheries Agreement

B5-0183/99

Resolution on the EC-Morocco Fisheries Agreement

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Fisheries Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco, which expires on 30 November 1999,
 - A. whereas attempts to initiate negotiations on renewal of the Fisheries Agreement with Morocco have until now failed, despite the Commission's continuous efforts,
 - B. whereas the Agreement is of major importance from the socioeconomic point of view, creating employment for up to 8 000 fishermen and 11 000 workers in the processing and other related industries,
 - C. whereas the expiry of the Agreement threatens these people's jobs,
 - D. whereas the cost of the five-year Agreement was EUR 500 million,
 - E. whereas the sector's participation in financing the Agreement was very limited,
 - F. whereas international fisheries agreements are the costliest sector in the common fisheries policy,
 - G. whereas the negotiations on a new fisheries agreement between the European Union and Morocco have alarmed the fruit and vegetables sector in some European regions, following the announcement that the agreement was to be linked to certain agricultural matters in the Association Agreement between the parties,
1. Calls on the Commission to continue its efforts to persuade the Moroccan Government to enter into negotiations in order to reach an agreement, acceptable to all parties, on fishing rights as well as obligations for EU fishermen in Moroccan waters;
 2. Recognises the justified Moroccan concerns about the overfishing of resources and the under-development of the fish-processing industry; emphasises the shared responsibility of both parties to maintain a sustainable marine environment;
 3. Considers that a second-generation type of agreement where local needs are better taken into account is the best alternative for both parties;
 4. Calls for shipowners benefiting from fisheries agreements to carry the budgetary responsibility for them;
 5. Opposes any type of fisheries agreement with Morocco in which fisheries-related issues would become embroiled with agricultural issues;

6. Points out that, should no agreement be reached, socioeconomic measures must be taken in order to tackle the problems the fisheries sector faces in the regions concerned and the restructuring thereof;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Moroccan Government.