

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Question B5-0031/1999

pursuant to Rule 42(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Langenhagen, on behalf of the PPE/DE Group

Miguélez Ramos, on behalf of the PSE Group,

Gallagher and Souchet, on behalf of the UEN Group

on the EU-Morocco fisheries agreement

B5-184/1999**Resolution on fisheries agreement**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the EC and the Kingdom of Morocco of November 1995 (12358/95 – C4-0315/96 – 95/0306(AVC)),
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC) 150/97 of 12 December 1996 on the agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the EC and the Kingdom of Morocco,
 - having regard to its resolution on international and multilateral fisheries agreements,
 - having regard to the statement to Parliament of 30 August 1999 by the Commissioner responsible for fisheries, Mr Franz Fischler,
 - having regard to the negotiating brief the Council issued to the Commission on 14 October 1999,
 - having regard to Article 300(3) of the EC Treaty,
- A. concerned that the fisheries agreement with Morocco will expire on 30 November 1999 without the parties yet having commenced negotiations for a new agreement,
- B. having regard to the importance of this agreement to those regions of the EU which are solely dependent on fisheries, and to the supply of fishery products to the Community market,
- C. having regard to the importance of maintaining levels of employment and economic activity in the Objective 1 and 2 regions essentially dependent on fisheries,
- D. having regard to Morocco's political will to begin negotiations with the EU on an equal footing and that take full account of the need to conserve its fishery resources,
- E. having regard to the importance of increasing the solidarity between the interests of Community and Moroccan operators,
- F. whereas ever closer cooperation between the EU and Morocco cannot exclude existing fishery relations,
1. Calls for the negotiations with Morocco to begin at the earliest opportunity and to culminate in the granting of fishing opportunities for the EU fleet concerned under that agreement;
 2. Calls on the Commission and Council to give these negotiations the highest priority, while regretting the Commission's delay in requesting a negotiating brief;

3. Calls for specific socio-economic compensation measures to be contemplated as of now to provide assistance to the European fleet which might be prevented from continuing its operations after that agreement;
4. Calls for account also to be taken of the processing industry, although the employment involved is indirect, in the compensation schemes set up for the period when fishing activities are halted;
5. Welcomes the fact that the new FIG Regulation provides funds to meet the future socio-economic impact of the failure to renew international agreements signed by the EU or unforeseen crises in the fisheries sector, and calls on the Council to adopt that regulation at the earliest opportunity;
6. Requests that it be informed in good time of any new developments, and to be involved in any negotiating procedures, with Members participating as observers, since Parliament is required to give its assent to that agreement; also calls for priority to be given to this matter at the next triologue;
7. Calls on the Commission to seek the most appropriate framework for strengthening solidarity between European and Moroccan fisheries interests in respect of the exploitation and management of fish stocks;
8. Urges broader cooperation than at present under the cooperation agreement on sea fisheries currently in force;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.