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Plenary sitting

9.5.2011

B7-0297/2011

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B7-0306/2011, B7-0307/2011, B7-0308/2011, B7-0310/2011, B7-0311/2011 and B7-0313/2011

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on the European fisheries sector crisis due to the rise in oil prices

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on behalf of the PPE Group

B7-0297/2011

European Parliament resolution on the European fisheries sector crisis due to the rise in oil prices

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 69/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to *de minimis* aid,
 - having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 875/2007 of 24 July 2007 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to *de minimis* aid in the fisheries sector,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 7 June 2005 entitled ‘State aid action plan - Less and better targeted state aid: a roadmap for state aid reform 2005–2009’ (COM(2005)0107),
 - having regard to Council Directive 73/238/EEC of 24 July 1973 on measures to mitigate the effects of difficulties in the supply of crude oil and petroleum products,
 - having regard to Council Directive 2009/119/EC of 14 September 2009 imposing an obligation on Member States to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products,
 - having regard to the Commission communication of 10 November 2010 entitled ‘Energy 2020 – A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy’ (COM(2010)0639),
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 663/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a programme to aid economic recovery by granting Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy,
 - having regard to its resolution of 19 June 2008 on the crisis in the fisheries sector caused by rising fuel prices¹,
 - having regard to Rules 115(5) and 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas it is in the interest of the European Union to safeguard activity in fisheries, not only to preserve activity and employment in the sector, but also to support the Union’s food security,
- B. whereas energy is an important factor of the operating cost in the Fisheries sector and that the price of the activity of fishermen is highly dependent on the price of oil,
- C. whereas the rise in oil price directly affects fishermen’s income,
- D. whereas the financial and economic crisis particularly impacts the industry sector and the

¹ OJ C 286 E, 27.11.2009, p. 32.

small and medium enterprises (SME) and jeopardizes activity and employment in the primary and secondary sectors,

- E. whereas political crises in the Maghreb and the Middle-East have led to a rise in oil prices over 100 dollars/barrel; whereas oil prices are still very uncertain given the risk of political instability in the Arab world in general,
- F. whereas the recent rise in oil prices has led to a crisis in the Fisheries sector and to strong worries on the Fishermen's side,
- G. whereas the price of fishery and aquaculture products is set by the balance between supply and demand and that, due to high dependency of the European Union on imports from third countries (60%) for the procurement of its internal market, producers have very few or even no influence on the price level of fishery products,
- H. whereas the fishery sector is in an economically difficult situation, and has been already deeply affected by various ship dismantling operations due to quota and catch decreases and the objective of reducing the European fleet in the frame of the CFP,
- I. whereas the Council directive 73/238 of July 24th 1973, aims at reducing the effects of difficulty of procurement in the crude oil and petroleum products and aiming notably at compensating or at least reducing, the harmful effects of any difficulty, even temporary, having the effect of considerably reducing supplies of such products could cause serious disturbances in the economic activity of the EU,
- J. whereas the Commission authorises the Member States to grant *de minimis* aid when it is considered transparent, up to a ceiling of 30 000 euros on a three year period to fishing firms,
 1. Expresses its support to EU Fishermen and invites the Commission and the Council to take the appropriate measures to facilitate the activity of the Fishermen;
 2. Asks the Commission to increase the ceiling of the *de minimis* aid from 30 000 to 60 000 euros per firm on the period of three years;
 3. Recalls the Commission and the Council the urgency to reinforce the Union procurement security in energy, but also to better inform the markets and to reassure the consumers on the state of crude oil stocks, particularly concerning the availability in case of crisis or shortage;
 4. Asks the Commission to propose an action plan for coastal regions having an active fishing sector;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the producer organisations and to the European fishing industries.