



Plenary sitting

B8-0648/2017

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on an outright ban on electric fishing

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on an outright ban on electric fishing

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas electric fishing is officially banned in the European Union under Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 of 30 March 1998¹;
- B. whereas there are many exemptions to this ban, in particular in the Netherlands, a country that is happy to exceed the quotas set for electric fishing and to ignore the maximum voltage rules imposed by the above regulation;
- C. whereas these exemptions are leading to significant distortions of competition between fishermen from different Member States, which in turn are having a hugely detrimental effect on jobs and the fishing profession;
- D. whereas electric fishing is having a severely adverse impact on marine wildlife and is leading to the depletion of fish stocks, including of some endangered species, as a result of its indiscriminate nature, meaning that adult fish, fish eggs and other non-targeted species are affected;
- E. whereas electric fishing significantly adds to animal suffering and inflicts burns, skeletal deformations and bruising on fish, whether they are brought to the surface or not;
- 1. Calls on the Commission to engage in dialogue with the EU Member States with a view to imposing an outright ban on electric fishing and doing away with all the exemptions currently in force.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 of 30 March 1998 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms (OJ L 125, 27/4/1998, p. 1).