



20.9.2010

0071/2010

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on support for strengthening the European Union ban on shark finning

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Written declaration on support for strengthening the European Union ban on shark finning

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas ‘finning’ is the wasteful practice of slicing off a shark’s fins and discarding the carcass at sea, and is driven by high demand for the delicacy shark fin soup,
- B. whereas finning is contributing to extreme declines in slow-growing shark populations,
- C. whereas one-third of European shark species are threatened with extinction,
- D. whereas the EU finning ban is the world’s weakest with exemptions to land fins and carcasses separately, and an excessive fin-to-carcass weight ratio,
- E. whereas the Commission is considering a range of options for amending the finning ban (Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003),
- F. whereas Parliament asked the Commission to close finning ban loopholes in 2006,
- G. whereas most scientists and the IUCN recommend that sharks be landed with fins naturally attached,
- H. whereas Costa Rica has championed at the United Nations the ‘fins naturally attached’ method, which is being used in many Central and North American fisheries,
- 1. Calls on the Commission to deliver a proposal to prohibit the removal of shark fins on-board vessels by the second anniversary of the Community Plan of Action for Sharks (February 2011);
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission.