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European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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DOCUMENT 1-235/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- I. a regulation laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands (Doc. 1-139/80)**
- II. a regulation laying down for the year 1980 certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway (Doc. 1-193/80)**
- III. a regulation laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden (Doc. 1-221/80)**

Rapporteur: Mr Finn LYNGE

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By letter of 25 April 1980, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands.

On 5 May 1980, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

The President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation laying down for the year 1980 certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Lynge rapporteur on these two proposals on 19 May 1980.

By letter of 3 June 1980, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden. At the same time the Council requested the application of the urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Lynge rapporteur on 4 June 1980.

It considered these proposals at its meeting of 3-5 June 1980.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Früh, vice-chairman; Mr Lynge, rapporteur; Miss Barbarella, Mr Battersby, Mr Buchou, Mr Clinton, Mr Dalsass, Mr Diana, Mr Helms, Mr Kirk, Mr Jürgens, Mr Maher, Mr Nielsen, Mr d'Ormesson, Ms Quin, Mr Wettig and Mr Woltjer.

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A

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- I. a regulation laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands
- II. a regulation laying down for the year 1980 certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway
- III. a regulation laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-139/80, 1-193/80, and 1-221/80),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-235/80),
- having regard to the decision of the Council to grant interim quotas to Norway for the first half of 1980 rather than a definitive measure for the whole year as originally proposed by the Commission,
- having regard to the report by the European Parliament of 26 March 1980 drawn up by Mr Woltjer on the Commission's original proposal to allocate quotas to Norway for 1980 (Doc. 1-39/80),
- whereas fisheries agreements with third countries are important to the future of the Community's fishing industry,

1. Approves the Commission's proposals subject to the following observations:

Faroes

2. Notes that the overall result of quotas allocated may be considered to result in a 10% balance in favour of Faroese or in a slight loss to the Faroese according to the manner of calculating cod equivalents;

¹ COM (80) 198 final
O.J. no. C124 of 23.5.80, p.4
COM (80) 279 final

3. Notes that a balance in favour of the Faroes is completely in keeping with the preamble of the relevant framework agreement and with article 9 of that same agreement;

Expresses the wish that such balance in favour of the Faroes in future negotiations be established in such a manner that it can be recognised as such by both parties;

4. Points out that the quotas to be granted to the Community in Faroese waters are to be reduced for all species, with substantial reductions for saithe, cod and haddock;

Norway

5. Emphasizes that the European Parliament cannot give a fully considered opinion without proper information on the overall balance of quota allocations between Norway and the Community;
6. Expresses concern at the fact that the Community's quota in Norwegian waters appears to have been reduced significantly while that of Norway in Norwegian waters has remained, overall, at its previous level;
7. Considers that insufficient attention has been paid to the interest of Greenland and Greenland fishermen in the allocation of quotas of shrimp and halibut off Greenland to third countries, and in particular to Norway;
Insists, therefore, that the Commission should engage a full consultation with the Greenland authorities on future quota allocations to third countries;
8. Points out that it is essential for proper management of the stocks such as Greenland shrimp that proper information be supplied as to the amount, geographical area and time of catches, as well as the size of the shrimp;
Requires, therefore, that future allocation of experimental fisheries include the obligation to report full information to the relevant marine biological centres in order that proper guidelines can be established;
9. Considers that the Commission should avoid granting fixed quotas for experimental fisheries as in the case of Norway; and notes that for the Faroese experimental shrimps fishery no such quota has been allocated.
10. Points out that quotas are to be granted to Norway for West Greenland halibut notwithstanding the fact that the total allowable catch had already been fully utilized for internal requirements;
11. Requests that total allowable catches be respected; and that the area of permitted catch be specified more precisely as a single area rather than discretionary between several areas;

12. Points out that the Norwegian herring quota in the Skagerrak has been doubled despite the scientific evidence of the dangers to the stock;

And emphasizes that lack of adequate information makes it impossible to determine accurately catches and to make a realistic prognosis for the stock;

13. Points out that the Norwegian authorities are considering the regulation of certain types of fishing gear (variable trawls) in Norwegian waters;

Requests the Commission to ensure that such measures do not jeopardize Community fishing operations in Norwegian waters;

14. Emphasizes the importance of ensuring that both the Community and Norway provide adequate warning of any modifications to the arrangements governing access to their waters; and

Requests the Commission to take all measures necessary to ensure that fishing by Community vessels in Norwegian waters is not abruptly curtailed as happened in 1979.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTProposal for a fisheries agreement with the Faroe Islands

The committee recommends that Parliament endorse the proposal and makes the following comments:

Under the present draft agreement the Community may catch a total of 45,200 tons of fish in Faroese waters whilst the Faroese are authorized to catch a total of 108,480 tons of fish in Community waters. These figures are of course misleading unless the value of the fish is taken into consideration, and the Faroese have been granted relatively large quotas of less valuable species in Community waters. Calculated in cod equivalents there is a balance of about 20,000 tons in favour of both parties, but the Community sees this as a difference of about 10% in favour of the Faroese.

If such a balance actually exists in favour of the Faroese, it is quite in keeping with the preamble to the framework agreement concluded between the Faroe Islands and the Community and in particular with paragraph 9 thereof, under which the rights of the Faroese as citizens of the Kingdom of Denmark may not be impaired by the fact that they do not belong to the Community.

The question, however, is whether there actually is a 10% difference, as the Commission's methods of calculation do not correspond to what the Faroese consider to be the real value of the fish. The Commission, for instance, maintains that one ton of mackerel corresponds to 0.3 tons of cod, whereas the Faroese claim that two tons of mackerel corresponds to 2.5 tons of cod. This difference presumably arises because the Commission bases its calculations entirely on the value of fish for human consumption, whereas the Faroese are more realistic and consider the whole spectrum of fish, i.e. that for human consumption, industrial fish and fish for export to Eastern Europe.

If the Faroese calculations are correct, they do not gain 10% but suffer a slight loss, in which case the agreement conflicts with the spirit of the preamble of the framework agreement and with the letter of paragraph 9 thereof.

The committee therefore recommends that the Community and the Faroe Islands agree on a method for calculating cod equivalents in future agreements, and calls for compliance with the preamble and paragraph 9.

Proposal for a fisheries agreement with Norway

The committee recommends that Parliament endorse the proposal and makes the following comments:

1. In future, consultations should be held with the Greenland Administration before quotas are allocated in Greenland waters.

Justification: quotas of shrimp and halibut have been allocated to Norway without the Greenland Administration or the Ministry for Greenland in Denmark being consulted or subsequently informed.

2. Permits for experimental fishing in Greenland waters should in future include the obligation to report to the Danish and Greenland authorities and to the marine biological research centre 'Grønlands Fiskeriundersøgelser' in Denmark in accordance with guidelines acceptable to them.

Justification: Norway is merely required to inform the Commission of the total catch at the end of its experimental fishing for shrimp off the east coast of Greenland. This is not enough, as the biologists need to know where shrimp may and may not be found, the size of the shrimp caught and the exact times of the catches.

3. The Commission should also avoid granting fixed quotas for experimental fisheries.

Justification: it seems illogical to fix a 2,500-ton quota for experimental shrimp fishery and at the same time allow the Faroese to conduct unlimited experimental shrimp fishery in the same area.

4. The Commission should in future avoid allocating quotas in addition to the TAC when the TAC has already been used up within the context of a negotiated allocation scheme.

In the case of species for which quotas have already been allocated to another country in NAFO I or ICES XIV the Commission should in future confine itself to allocating quotas in Greenland waters to those two areas.

Justification: it is an extremely serious matter that the Commission has increased the TAC for halibut off Greenland in general by 200 tons, when the full TAC of 500 tons had already been allocated to the Greenlanders off the west coast of Greenland. Halibut is a valuable but endangered species especially vulnerable to overfishing.

