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Den fælles fiskeripolitik
Gemeinsame Fischereipolitik
Κοινή Αλιευτική Πολιτική
Common Fisheries Policy
La politique commune de la pêche
La politica comune della pesca
Het gemeenschappelijk visserijbeleid

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INTRODUCTION

In compiling this research paper on the common fisheries policy, the Directorate-General for Research and Documentation wishes to provide Members of the European Parliament preparing for the second term with a broad outline of the fisheries sector.

In the last few years, the Community has achieved significant progress in this sector, in some measure due to the pressure exerted by the European Parliament.

It is the European Parliament's task to follow up the implementation of the common policy and propose the amendments which it considers necessary as a result of contacts with those directly concerned - fishermen, processing industries, etc. - in the various regions of Europe.

This document is not intended to cover every aspect in full but rather to provide basic information for allowing further investigation into the different areas of the subject, particularly by the competent committee.

This document was prepared by the Agriculture Division of the Directorate-General for Research and Documentation.

1 - THE IMPORTANCE OF FISHING IN THE WORLD AND IN THE COMMUNITY

At world level, fishing is an important economic activity owing to the numbers directly employed in the sector, the employment which it indirectly generates - shipbuilding and food manufacturing industries - and, in terms of proteins, its contribution to world nutrition.

Out of a total world catch¹ of approx. 73.5 million tonnes, the Community accounts for approx. 5 million tonnes per year i.e. approx. 7% of world production. Community catches in the last decade have levelled off whereas, world production has, despite yearly fluctuations, tended to rise: from 63.9 million tonnes in 1968 to 73.5 tonnes in 1981.

One explanation for this trend lies in the emergence, at world level, of modern fleets from certain developing countries such as Mexico, Chile and the Republic of Korea. Besides these developing countries, countries with an important fishing tradition are Japan, with catches of over 10.5 million, and the Soviet Union, with over 9 million. Next, but far behind, come the People's Republic of China (4.2 million), the United States (3.5 million) and Chile itself (3.4 million).

With its five million tonnes, the Community holds a highly respectable position in fisheries, even though its most productive fishing areas mostly lie at considerable distances from its territories. Furthermore, the structure of the Community's fleet, unlike that of the Japanese and Soviet fleets, means that it cannot profitably fish in remote waters such as the Pacific.

The Pacific Ocean is in fact the world's most productive region with around 50% of total catches, whereas the Atlantic Ocean produces scarcely more than 30%, mainly in its northern sector.

¹ For the purpose of uniformity, figures, unless otherwise indicated, refer to 1981 and are taken from the 1983 Year Book of Fishing Statistics, Eurostat and the FAO Yearbook.

Most of the Community's fishing is done in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, which have traditionally been fished mainly by the coastal countries i.e. Denmark, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Other sea-faring countries, such as Greece and Italy, as well as France, have also traditionally been involved in the Northern-Central Atlantic, along the African coastline and, obviously, the Mediterranean. Fishing in the North-Western Atlantic, on the other hand, is gradually declining.

70% of fishery products are still used for human consumption although the demand for fishmeal among animal feed producers is steadily rising.

Before considering the common fisheries policy, we include a number of basic data on the Community's fishing sector, taken from the 1983 Yearbook of Fishing Statistics (EUROSTAT).

a - Breakdown of catches by country

Total (000 t live weight)	M1971-75	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	Total (1 000 t poids vif)
BR Deutschland	474.4	454.4	432.1	411.9	356.2	297.0	313.3
France	794.0	797.5	760.8	767.9	769.9	803.4	:
Italy	411.7	420.3	374.7	401.8	428.6	450.3	451.8
Nederland	337.9	285.0	313.0	324.4	323.7	340.4	434.4
Belgie/Belgique	63.5	44.4	45.4	50.6	47.1	45.6	49.3
United Kingdom	1 183.3	1 137.3	1 091.2	1 126.6	1 003.3	904.5	888.4
Ireland	86.9	94.9	93.5	108.5	92.8	149.4	194.6
Danmark	1 576.2	1 911.6	1 806.4	1 740.3	1 738.4	2 026.4	1 833.4*
EUR 9	4 917.9	5 145.4	4 917.1	4 932.0	4 760.0	5 017.0	:
Ελλάδα	97.1	105.6	106.4	102.2	105.5	105.5*	:
EUR 10	5 015.0	5 251.0	5 023.5	5 034.2	4 865.5	5 122.5	:

b - Fleets

Tonnage (GRT/TJB)	Germany		France		Italy		Netherlands		Belgium	
	M1971-75	1981	M1971-75	1981	M1971-75	1981	M1971-75	1981	M1971-75	1981
0- 24.9	1 126	913	11 813	10 366	18 553	21 839	807	422	23	2
25- 49.9	260		1 056		1 361				70	80
50- 99.9		94	179	116		716		193		80
100- 149.9	187	42		77	649	234	397	112	162	48
150- 249.9			328		54			170	23	30
250- 499.9	12	7	96	165	29	139	175	80	5	8
500- 999.9	48	12	49	53		29	3	17	4	1
1000-1999.9	18	1		14	54	25		1		
>2000	20	18	31			1				
Total	1 671	1 083	13 552	10 781	20 700	22 981	1 082	995	287	218

Tonnage (GRT/TJB)	United Kingdom		Ireland		Ireland		Greece	
	M1971-75	1981	M1971-75	1981	M1971-75	1981	M1971-75	1981
0- 24.9	4 857	4 970	784	1 427	5 987	5 804	258	
25- 49.9	770	676	189		818	603	367	
50- 99.9		442		166	212	181	82	
100- 149.9	298	77	133	48	161	131		
150- 249.9				17		99	47	
250- 499.9	292	87		11	81	39		
500- 999.9		91						
1000-1999.9	148	10		6	1	6	19	
>2000		25				1	12	
Total	6 462	7 351	1 066	1 644	7 250	6 863	783	854

c - Total number of fishermen

COUNTRY	M1971/75	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
BR Deutschland	8 022	5 492	5 130	4 844	4 360	5 133	5 142
France	:	24 396	23 299	22 456	22 548	22 019	21 033
Italy	64 489	65 000	45 000	45 000	40 000	40 000	40 000
Nederland	4 769	4 327	3 164	3 604	3 421	3 677	4 073
Belgie/Belgique	1 361	1 015	919	914	899	894	894
United Kingdom	22 777	22 822	22 632	22 186	21 908	23 289	23 927
Ireland	6 343	7 393	8 179	8 620	8 711	8 824	9 000
Danmark	15 000	15 229	14 909	:	:	:	11 000*
EUR 9	:	145 674	123 232	:	:	:	115 059
EEAadda	:	:	:	:	45 500	46 500	46 500
EUR 10	:	:	:	:	:	:	161 563

d - Total imports of fishery products

a = 000 t

b = 000 ECU

	a	b	a	b
COUNTRY	M1971-75	M1971-75	1981	1981
BR Deutschland	825 217	328 972	749 370	726 498
France	373 188	294 836	503 341	956 788
Italia	305 799	222 741	342 695	645 709
Nederland	290 773	110 357	351 296	295 106
BLEU/UE9L	186 398	119 307	183 461	311 583
United Kingdom	644 633	336 619	731 189	881 179
Ireland	18 887	8 774	29 679	37 137
Danmark	179 821	57 772	265 150	272 433
EUR 9	2 824 716	1 499 379	3 156 180	4 126 433
	31 816	16 970	56 666	75 423
EUR 10	2 856 533	1 506 348	3 212 846	4 201 856

e - Total exports of fishery products

a = 000 t

b = 000 ECU

	a	b	a	b
COUNTRY	M1971-75	M1971-75	1981	1981
BR Deutschland	98 044	146 095	221 381	243 343
France	70 745	88 696	138 998	282 629
Italia	29 670	73 767	97 318	95 429
Nederland	162 228	262 245	436 473	457 650
BLEU/UE8L	24 777	28 538	52 618	65 278
United Kingdom	85 727	158 940	290 246	270 025
Ireland	20 093	45 717	137 499	74 128
Danmark	276 549	516 443	729 800	840 455
EUR 9	767 833	1 320 437	2 104 333	2 328 937
Ελλάδα	6 323	7 641	5 833	16 057
EUR 10	774 157	1 328 073	2 110 186	2 344 994

2. - THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

Fishery products - fish, crustaceans and molluscs - come under Annex II of the Treaty and are classified under agricultural products. In 1970, the Council adopted regulations for the common organization of the market and introduced structural measures, modelled on agricultural regulations, with target prices and withdrawal prices for certain species.

Although fishery products are, to a certain extent, comparable to agricultural products, fishing cannot be considered as a part of agriculture: for this reason, fishermen and those connected with fishing were not satisfied with a mere organization of the market, but called for a general Community fisheries policy. The European Parliament has always taken the lead, not only in calling for a genuine common fisheries policy, but also in studying the different aspects of such a policy (see section 10, page 23).

Establishing a common fisheries policy involved finding common rules for the management of resources so as to protect them from further depletion, controlling catch capacities, dealing with the situation arising from the establishment of the 200-mile zone, and building up a network of fishing and/or cooperation agreements with third countries.

All these measures enable the European fisheries sector to plan its own future and make appropriate investments in order to reduce the risk of crisis.

In drawing up a common fisheries policy, the Community had to overcome the following main problems:

- a - regulating the right of access, with derogations for sensitive areas following the extension of the exclusive economic zone to 200 miles,
- b - dividing up the catches available each year - generally referred to as TACs (Total allowable catches) - into national quotas,
- c - establishing a medium-term structural policy.

Negotiations within the Council to reach an agreement on the Commission's proposals proved difficult and, for a long time, fishermen had to base their decisions on provisional arrangements. Rather than give an account of the different stages gone through, it would be more appropriate here to focus on the current regulations in force stemming from the decision of 25 January 1983, which can be considered as the origin of the new common fisheries policy.

3 - THE NEW PROVISIONS

As a consequence of the Council's decision of 25 January 1983 12 regulations¹ were issued containing the new provisions governing the common fisheries policy, although, as already mentioned, a number of the principles involved had already been established in 1970. The new provisions will remain in force until 31 December 1992.

The purpose of these regulations is to set up a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources and to ensure their balanced exploitation. The system consists, in particular, of measures to restrict fishing, rules for the management of resources, special provisions for coastal fishing and control measures.

The new provisions take account of the conditions governing the exploitation of fishery resources resulting from the institution of 200-mile fishing zones. To this end, Regulation 170/83 stipulates that Member States shall be authorized to extend up to 12 nautical miles the limit of 6 miles referred to in Article 100 of the Act of Accession of 1972, restricting this coastal band to inshore fishing. This means that within a 12 mile coastal band fishing is reserved for a Member State's own fleet, with limited exceptions.

In a specific fishing area around the Orkney and Shetland Islands, the regulation provides for the establishment of a licensing system to govern the fishing activities of vessels whose length is over 26 metres. The provisions adopted by the Council also include technical measures for the conservation of resources (Reg. 171/83). This Regulation, which applies to the most biologically sensitive fishing areas, places restrictions on:

¹ Cf. OJ L 24/83, OJ L 25/83, OJ C 28/83

- a - the use of fishing gear (e.g. mesh sizes),
- b - by-catches,
- c - fish sizes.
- d - fishing periods in certain areas and for certain species (salmon, red-fish and herring).

The decisions taken in January 1983 paved the way for other important measures regarding the management of resources, e.g., the decision of 20 December 1983 governing the allocation of North Sea herring catches among the different states for 1984.

Furthermore, in January 1984, the Council decided on total allowable catches (TAC) on the basis of experts' opinions and on their breakdown into national quotas (Reg. 320/84, OJ L 37/84), the first time that this had been done at the beginning of the year.

In order to ensure effective management of these TACs, the regulation established the specific conditions under which fishing operations occur and the distribution in national quotas in a manner which assures relative stability of fishing activities.

This decision, taken at the beginning of the year, is extremely important for fishermen as it provides them with early information of the quantities available to them and, hence, enables them to plan their activities.

The allocation of TACs in national quotas, established for practically every fishing area and every major species and based on each Member State's fishing effort in the last few years, should facilitate the allocation of the available stocks in the years to come.

The quota system does not apply to the Mediterranean. It covers only the Community zones of the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic.

Obviously, the system as a whole can only operate if strictly applied and rigidly controlled.

Owing to a number of special features peculiar to the sector, the inspection system in fisheries is different from that of other sectors. Indeed, although the powers of inspection to ensure that Community regulations are applied are delegated to the various Member States (Reg. 2057/82, OJ L 220/82), the Commission is responsible for controlling and coordinating the surveillance operations carried out by Member States.

For this purpose, the Commission is setting up the first group of 13 Community inspectors to ensure compliance with Community law.

4 - THE COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

Fishery products are governed by a common organization of the market which, though in force since 1970, has undergone a number of amendments, the last of which was in December 1981 (Reg. 3796/81, OJ L 379/81).

The common organization of the market provides for the involvement of producers' organizations, and the Council has laid down specific rules on how they are to be set up and given due recognition.

In addition to seeking to improve conditions of sale, producers' organizations may be called on to intervene on the market at the withdrawal price whenever the market prices of certain products fall below a certain level.

For each product category to which the COM applies, the Community fixes a guide price according to freshness, size or weight and presentation. The withdrawal price can be fixed on this basis and can vary between 70% and 90% of the guide price.

Financial compensation is granted to producers' organizations for products withdrawn from the market.

The regulation also provides for a system of carry-over premiums - in particular for processing and storage - to avoid the destruction of fresh fish and encourage their subsequent sale for human consumption. Moreover, where an exceptional downward trend in prices is apparent and marketing difficulties arise together with the risk of surpluses, private storage aid may be granted to producers.

As regards trade with third countries, although there are no quantitative restrictions at the border on imports, the regulation provides for a reference price on the basis of which a countervailing charge is calculated, equal to the difference between the reference price and the free-at-frontier price plus the customs duty.

The COM also provides for the fixing of an export refund to enable economically important exports of fishery products to be effected only where these are in excess supply on the Community market. In view of the special conditions of the sector, which normally has a balance deficit, refunds are granted by the Council.

One last point regarding the COM in fishery products, which particularly concerns the European Parliament, is the cost covered by the Community budget.

The costs of COM in fisheries covered by the EAGGF Guarantee Section rose steeply from 1977 to 1984.

EAGGF-Guarantee expenditure for fishery products
(interventions and refunds)

1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984*
8.8	15.4	17.0	23.0	28.0	34	37	43

* 1984 Budget

Despite the increase in expenditure which can be explained by the gradual adjustment of the COM in fishery products, the outlay of the EAGGF Guarantee Section is equal to approx. 0.4% of total expenditure, for a production figure which represents roughly 1% of total agricultural production. Furthermore, the existence of a separate policy has made it more and more difficult to justify the inclusion of fishery expenditure in the European Agricultural Fund, particularly since the Council and the Commission have accepted the European Parliament's view that Title IV of the 1984 budget should be defined as 'Common Fisheries and Marine Policy'. It remains to be seen whether the definition contained in the 1984 budget fits into a trend towards a more independent fisheries and marine policy, possibly through the setting up of a separate fund.

5 - STRUCTURAL POLICY

The fisheries structural policy was greatly aided by the provisions of 25 January 1983 in which appropriations for it were approved by the Council.

Until 1983, structural policy had been based on annual regulations and the level of funds available was uncertain, being fixed each year according to budget considerations rather than medium or long-term objectives for the modernization of fishing structures.

From October 1983, the Community adopted a medium-term policy with appropriations over a period of three years.

The measures within the structural package concern the restructuring, modernization and development of fishing and aquaculture (Reg. 2908/83)¹; a scheme to encourage exploratory fishing and cooperation through joint ventures (Reg. 2909/83)¹; and a directive concerning certain measures to adjust capacity in the fisheries sector (Dir. 83/515)¹.

¹ All three in O.J. L 290/83

Restructuring measures are based on the premise that changes in the international context - e.g. the setting up of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone - and the need for conservation and management of resources have reduced the scope for fishing available to Community fleets and made producers' earnings insecure. The aim is to adapt fleets in such a way as to guarantee them a balanced development in line with actual catch potential. This balance between fleet and catch potential is the only way of ensuring optimum productivity in the long term of the production facilities employed, which itself is the only way of ensuring the sector's long term survival.

This measure provides for 50% financing by the Community of projects contained in the multiannual programmes, which are submitted by each Member State. Projects, whether public or private, must relate to:

- (a) the purchase or construction of new fishing vessels, and the modernization or conversion of fishing vessels already in use,
- (b) the construction, equipment or modernization of installations for rearing fish, crustaceans and molluscs,
- (c) the construction, within an area of 3 miles from the base lines, of artificial reefs to facilitate re-stocking of Mediterranean coastal areas.

Another measure which fishermen are very much interested in, and expect even more from, is the regulation on aid for exploratory fishing and co-operation. Its aim is to find new fishing grounds and under-exploited species. The Community also contributes financially to the expenditure incurred in the launching of joint ventures. The purpose of such ventures is to utilize the surplus fishing capacity of Community countries for the exploitation of the under-exploited fishing areas of third countries.

The last measure concerns the reduction of fishing capacity. Unlike the two other measures - which are regulations and therefore directly applicable - the Council decided that this measure should be in the form of a directive requiring a national provision in order to be adopted.

In this case, States can introduce aid mechanisms for the temporary or permanent laying-up of fishing vessels whose length is more than 18 metres. The Commission examines the admissibility of the project and reimburses Member States 50% of the eligible expenditure.

As all States have complied with the requirements for the adoption of the national provisions, these measures are applicable throughout the Community.

We conclude this section with an outline of the funds allocated for the above measures for three years (1984 to 1986).

MEASURE PROPOSED	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (millions of ECU)
<hr/>	
1. <u>Directive on capacity adjustment</u>	
(a) Temporary laying-up	44
(b) Permanent laying-up	32
Sub-total	76
<hr/>	
2. <u>Regulation on exploratory fishing and joint ventures</u>	
(a) Exploratory fishing	11
(b) Joint ventures	7
Sub-total	18
<hr/>	
3. <u>Regulation on a common measure for restructuring, etc.</u>	
(a) Construction and modernization of fishing vessels	118
(b) Aquaculture	34
(c) Artificial reefs	4
Sub-total	156
<hr/>	
TOTAL	250

6 - MEDITERRANEAN FISHING

Fishing problems at Community level are mainly tackled from the point of view of ~~sea~~fishing in the Atlantic and the North Sea.

However, fishing is also, in various respects, extremely important for the Mediterranean regions, despite their limited fishing area (2.5 million km² and a coastline of 23,000 kms) compared to the vastness of the oceans, and the threat of pollution in this limited area is greater than in the open sea.

Fishing production in the Mediterranean nevertheless represents 18% of Community production and will rise above 20% after the accession of Spain and Portugal.

However, in terms of value, Mediterranean fishing accounts for approximately 35% of the Community's fishing production, owing to the high commercial value of some of its catch.

As regards employment, the number of fishermen working in the Mediterranean is approximately 1.3% higher than those working in the North Sea and other seas.

Mediterranean fishing produces an income estimated at above 1,000 million ECU, the prices of Mediterranean fishing products being higher than world prices.

The most significant point brought out by the European Parliament is the specific nature of Mediterranean problems which cannot be analyzed using the same fishing parameters as in other seas.

For example, a system of quotas by species is difficult to apply in the Mediterranean, and provisions are necessary for the management of resources.

Some aspects of the structural regulations mentioned above, such as artificial reefs and aquaculture, can be ideally applied in the Mediterranean.

Moreover, the importance given to fishing in the integrated Mediterranean programmes, submitted by the Commission to the Council with the support of the European Parliament, shows that it plays an essential role in the Mediterranean, especially in view of the accession of Spain and Portugal, both of which have high levels of production and consumption of fishery products.

7 - AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture is developing at the same rate as the common fisheries policy and in a sense, forms one aspect of its implementation.

Aquaculture, that is fish breeding in inland waters or at sea (fish traps, artificial reefs), can provide not only additional food supplies but also supplementary income for certain fishermen.

The Community is behind in the development of this sector, which has made particular progress in Asia.

The breakdown of present Community aquaculture production is as follows:

Aquaculture production in the EEC (in tonnes)

1982*

	TROUT	EELS	CARP	SALMON	OTHERS	TOTAL
GERMANY	14 000	-	4 000	-	300	18 300
FRANCE	25 000	50	5 000	100	450	30 600
ITALY	19 000	2 200	-	-	7 700	28 900
NETHERLANDS	50	-	-	-	-	50
BELGIUM	400	-	-	-	100	500
LUXEMBOURG	12	-	-	-	2	14
UNITED KINGDOM	8 500	200	100	2 500	-	11 300
IRELAND	550	-	-	150	-	700
DENMARK	24 700	-	3	-	-	24 703
GREECE	2 000		32		2 230	4 262
EC 10	94 212	2 450	9 135	2 750	10 782	119 329

Source:

Cross (personal communication)

Community farmed shellfish production in 1982

(in tonnes - live weight)

	OYSTERS	MUSSELS	TOTAL
GERMANY	1	11 760	11 761
FRANCE	100 000	80 000	180 000
ITALY	...	4 807	4 807
NETHERLANDS	1 124	118 485	119 609
BELGIUM	-	-	-
UNITED KINGDOM	450	7 200	7 650
IRELAND	756	3 018	3 774
DENMARK	-	46 756	46 756
EC 9	102 331	272 026	374 357

Source: Cross (personal communication)

Like the fishing sector, aquaculture encourages the development of a range of related activities (for instance the manufacture of tanks, pumps and hatchery equipment) albeit on a much more limited scale. Nevertheless, it could acquire considerable economic importance in certain areas of the Community, particularly in regions such as the north and west of Ireland, North-West Scotland and the Italian Mezzogiorno.

The Community's efforts in this sector have been hampered by obstacles which have seriously reduced its effectiveness, such as the lack of funds and the provisional nature of measures owing to the absence of any permanent policy.

The adoption of Regulation 2908/83 should eliminate the second obstacle and enable the Commission to develop a long-term aquaculture policy. It should be added that the Community can not only produce equipment but also make a significant contribution to the development of applied research in this sector.

The development of aquaculture on an economically viable basis is highly dependent on the progress achieved by research in this sector. It is important that the Community should contribute to research, particularly in the fields of coordination and dissemination of information, in order to avoid dispersion of effort, which can only hinder the Community's economy.

8 - COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

Since 1976, the Community has been empowered to conduct international relations in the fishing sector. Its task grew in importance following the setting up of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone, decreed by almost all the coastal states. This decision restricted the activities of Community fishing vessels, and it is therefore only by means of international agreements that Community fishermen will be able to continue their traditional activities in certain areas or have access to new fishing grounds.

From the institutional point of view, such agreements are negotiated by the Commission, which receives a specific mandate from the Council before negotiations begin. The European Parliament is consulted on the agreement after the signing of the protocol and its provisional implementation and before its definitive entry into force through a Council regulation. Parliament has often criticised the tardy and inadequate nature of this consultation.

The structure of these agreements generally provides for the signing of a framework agreement, whose various elements, such as catch quotas or the number of licences, are negotiated annually.

The bilateral agreements concluded by the Community fall into two major categories:

- a - 'reciprocity' agreements
- b - cooperation agreements.

¹ BLUMENFELD report, Doc. 1-685/81, OJ C 66/82

- a - Reciprocity agreements, according to which the Community receives fishing rights for its own fishermen in exchange for the granting of fishing rights in Community waters to fishermen of third countries¹.

The Community has concluded agreements on a reciprocity basis with Norway, Sweden and the Faroe Islands.

The following can also be included in this category, although they are not, strictly speaking, reciprocity agreements: the agreement with the United States whereby surplus stocks not fished by the US are divided between third countries on the basis of traditional rights: the agreement with Canada stipulating that the Community will reduce European customs duties on certain quotas of Canadian fishery products in exchange for a certain number of licences for fishing in Canadian waters.

¹ Canada	Council Dec. 83/652	OJ L 371/83
Norway	Reg. 2214/80	OJ L 226/83
Sweden	Reg. 2209/80	OJ L 226/80
Faroe Islands	Reg. 2118/83	OJ L 205/83
USA	Reg. 1220/77	OJ L 141/77 (expires on 1.7.1984)

b - Cooperation agreements have been concluded by the Community with a number of developing countries². In exchange for fishing licences, the Community offers aid for the development of the fishing industry in these countries, which often have inadequate fleets and insufficient on-shore facilities. This aid is provided in different forms, including financial aid, contributions for research programmes and the training of local fishermen, and commitments to employ some local manpower on board Community vessels.

Such agreements have been concluded with Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and the Seychelles.

The Commission is also negotiating with other African countries on the Atlantic and Indian Ocean with the aim of concluding further agreements.

The Community and Spain have also signed an agreement which does not fall into either category because Spain, which has a considerable fleet, has no resources available for Community vessels.

² Equatorial Guinea	Reg. 415/83	OJ L 237/83
Guinea Conakry	Reg. 971/83	OJ L 111/83
Guinea Bissau	Reg. 707/83	OJ L 84/83
Seychelles	Council Dec. 84/170	OJ L 79/84
Sao Tome	Reg. 477/84	OJ L 54/84

The agreement with Spain must be considered in the context of the special relations between the Community and this country, which has applied for accession and for which fishing is economically very important, as we shall see in the following section.

Lastly, the Community is a full member of a number of international organizations. The Commission has the task of representing both the Community and Member States, which are therefore no longer individual members of the organizations.

In particular, the Community is a member of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Organization, the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organization, the Convention on the Conservation of North Atlantic Salmon and the Convention on the Conservation of Resources.

The Commission also has observer status along with the Member States in other international organizations, including the FAO's fisheries committees.

9 - FISHERIES IN ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

Fishing is certainly one of the most delicate issues in the current negotiations between the Community and the applicant countries, Spain and Portugal.

The Community, which, as already mentioned, has just achieved relative stability in the fisheries sector, cannot after only a few months reconsider this balance which was reached with great difficulty by Member States of the Community.

Portugal has specific problems connected especially with the need to restructure its fleet and protect it even beyond the 12-mile limit, not only around the mainland but also the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira.

Spain has one of the largest fishing fleets in the world, the largest among Community countries, a high consumption of fishery products and has had a large trade deficit since 1976. Spain requires new fishing zones and quotas, and will have to adjust its own fishing capacity to the new situation.

At the present stage, and without entering into details¹, the principal issues in the negotiations can be summarized as follows:

EEC-Portugal: negotiations on the fisheries sector started some time ago; the Portuguese demands concern the right of access, including protection of the 12-mile coastal area; the creation of sensitive zones, reserved for their fishermen, beyond the 12-mile limit around the mainland, the Azores archipelago and Madeira; and the immediate implementation of structural regulations.

As regards the setting up of sensitive zones, the Community's position is that they should only be recognized where there are proven biological reasons for protecting resources, and not on socio-economic grounds.

EEC-Spain: negotiations will only officially open once the Council has made a statement on the communication from the Commission of 21 March 1984, defining the Community's position. The brief comments made above indicate the scope of the problems which will have to be tackled. It is likely, however, that the Community's position will centre around the principle of a relative balance in the allocation of quotas, on which the whole common fisheries policy is based.

¹ See on this subject: information note on the fisheries sector in Spain and the main aspects of the accession negotiations, PE 90.032 of 6 April 1984, and working document by Mrs PERY, on the fisheries sector in Portugal and the state of negotiations, PE 89.972 of 26 March 1984.

10 - THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The progress achieved in the establishment of a common fisheries policy, as evidenced by this paper, is partly due to the European Parliament.

During Parliament's first term, fishery issues were examined by a working party chaired by Mr BATTERSBY and set up under the Committee on Agriculture. The reports drawn up by the working party, with the Committee's approval, were thus submitted to Parliament.

It was possible in this way to adopt a consistent line of action, supported by Parliament, whose aim was to implement the common fisheries policy and give it the stability and security essential to its development.

The European Parliament has always called for a wide-ranging agreement on a common fisheries policy which would take account of social and economic factors and be based on the best scientific data available. It has also always insisted on the special needs of regions whose economic activity is largely dependent on the exploitation of fishery resources and on the fishing methods used. It is important to convince all those concerned that the proposed measures are adequate and fair, though often difficult to apply.

On the basis of own-initiative reports¹ prepared by the working party, Parliament has, since 1979, defined the principles on which the common fisheries policy was to be founded:

- (a) the need to pay due regard to the dependence of particular regions on fishing and to the contribution which fishing can make to the well-being of the poorer and more peripheral regions of the Community as recognized in the Hague agreement of 1977, together with the losses suffered by Community fishermen in third country waters,

¹ Annexed to this section is a list of the main own-initiative reports prepared by the Fisheries Working Party and adopted by the European Parliament.

Further details in Doc. PE 87.243 + Add.

- (b) beyond a 3-mile limit, all Community fishermen should have the same access to fishing grounds. In the case of certain areas particularly dependent on fishing, the Community could adopt protection measures for local fishermen, for instance an extension of the 3-mile limit up to a maximum of 12 miles, or technical measures (catch plans). Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 100 of the Treaty of Accession of 1972 would then apply in a similar way,
- (c) the need for conservation measures to safeguard and develop stocks,
- (d) the crucial need for an adequate system of control to ensure that quotas and other conservation measures are respected by all fishermen,
- (e) a revision of the present market organization so as to achieve proper and orderly pricing arrangements and adequate protection against the increasing quantities of cheap imports of certain species being dumped by third countries,
- (f) an improvement in the external policy of the Community, in particular through a revision of customs tariff rates, as well as a fully-fledged cooperation policy with developing countries,
- (g) the need to promote employment on land, in particular by giving maximum encouragement to the processing of landed fish,
- (h) providing greater financial resources for the adjustment of Community fishing fleets to present catch possibilities and the coastal structure, giving priority to a further adjustment of fishing fleets to the catch potential. Furthermore, whereas Member States must maintain a reasonable number of fishing vessels, any excess capacity must at all costs be avoided,
- (i) recognition of the specific nature of Mediterranean fishing and hence the need to adopt special measures for the area, compatible with all the other economic activities around the Mediterranean.

Although not all these principles have been taken up - e.g. Community waters lie between the 12 and 200-mile limits, whereas the European Parliament had asked for the 3-mile limit in point (b) - the fishing policy is largely based on the principles established by Parliament.

Another significant point is that Parliament has insisted that fisheries should be considered as a separate policy with its own title in the European Parliament's budget: the fact that this has been achieved shows recognition of the importance of the fisheries sector. Parliament has also endeavoured to add further budget headings to ensure the financing of controls, research, occupational training and the implementation of the social aspects of the common fisheries policy.

A N N E X

The main own-initiative reports of the Fisheries Working Party adopted by the European Parliament from 1979 to 1984 are the following:

<u>Rapporteur</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Doc. No.</u>
Mr KIRK	Interim measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry	1-233/80
Mr CLINTON	Resolution on the common fisheries policy	1-560/80
Ms QUIN	Total catch possibilities in 1981	1-763/81
Mr WOLTJER	Social aspects in the fishing sector	1-830/81
Mrs PERY	Maritime inspection and surveillance operations	1-183/82
Mrs PERY	Decision on financial participation in inspection and surveillance operations in the maritime waters of Denmark and Ireland	1-527/82
Mr GAUTIER	Community fisheries policy in the Mediterranean	1-949/82
Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU	Development of fisheries in Greek bays, lagoons and inland water	1-950/82
Mr D'ORMESSON	Problems raised by the accession of Spain to the EEC in the fisheries sector in the eastern-central and south-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean	1-1117/83
Mrs PERY	Spanish fishing activities in Community waters in the Atlantic in the light of the present situation and the prospective enlargement	1-1119/83

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Mr BATTERSBY	Greenlandic fisheries	1-1394/83
Mr PAPAPIETRO	Development of aquaculture in the Community	1-1445/83
Mr PAPAPIETRO	Right of access to fishing grounds and management of fishery resources in the Mediterranean	1-1519/83