

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

19 January 1979

DOCUMENT 573/78*

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr C. BERKHOUWER

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the coordination of the activities of fisheries
auxiliary vessels at Community level

* This document replaces Doc. 77/78 of 3 May 1978
which is hereby withdrawn

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the fact that vessels from the Community Member States operate in fishing grounds covering an area of over 4 million sq. km., which is three times the surface area of the Community,
 - having regard to the fact that the sea fishing industry currently employs approx. 150,000 people in working conditions that are markedly inferior to those in virtually all other occupations,
 - having regard to the fact that there are currently no more than 15 vessels in service to provide medical, technical, meteorological and logistic assistance for the sea fishing industry, that none of these vessels are ever at sea simultaneously and that each one operates primarily in those areas where fishermen of the same nationality are exercising their profession,
 - having regard to the fact that, since 1970, the Commission has set up a Joint Committee on Social Problems in Sea Fishing under the Directorate-General for Social Affairs and that, as a result of an opinion adopted by this committee in Scheveningen in 1971, the beginnings of coordination have been established on a voluntary basis by the departments of the Directorate-General between the Member States concerned in the form of a mutual exchange of information on the sailing plans of auxiliary vessels,
 - having regard to the fact that the Community is required under Article 9 of Regulation No. 101/76 laying down a common structural policy for the fishing industry (OJ No. L 20/76, p. 19) to take measures to contribute to 'the improvement, in step with technical progress, of the standard and conditions of living of the population which depends on fishing for its livelihood',
 - having regard to the fact that, in paragraph 53 of its Resolution of 16 December 1978 (OJ No. C 6/78, p. 125), Parliament once again called on the Commission to 'begin preparation of an overall social policy for the fisheries sector covering such matters as safety both on board ship and at sea',
1. Notes with appreciation the measure of coordination established between the activities of fisheries auxiliary vessels;
 2. Takes the view that it is still far from possible with this first move towards coordination to provide fishermen with the same standard of social measures and protection in respect of working conditions as enjoyed by other occupations that are land-based;
 3. Requests the Commission, therefore, to submit proposals by mid-1979 at the latest (see paragraph 5 below) for the progressive improvement, intensification and expansion of the system of auxiliary vessels for the sea fishing industry;
 4. Requests the Commission in this connection to examine whether the activities in question could be delegated by the Community, and under its supervision, to already existing organizations or institutions possessing the necessary experience;
 5. Requests the Commission finally to ensure that, with effect from 1980, a post is entered in the Community budget, as provided for inter alia in Article 18 of the draft directive on certain immediate measures to adjust capacity in the fisheries sector (Doc. 357/77 - IV = COM(77) 543 final), in order to ensure adequate support for the measures referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this resolution.