

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-841/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-635/80) for a regulation on the common organization of the market in fishery products

Rapporteur: Mr Fritz GAUTIER

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By letter of 27 November 1980, the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation (EEC) on the common organization of the market in fishery products.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 26 November 1980, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Gautier rapporteur.

By letter of 15 December 1980, the Council of the European Communities requested urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure.

At its sitting of 18 December 1980 the European Parliament rejected the request for urgent procedure.

It considered the proposal at its meetings of 21/22/23 January 1981 and 28/29/30 January 1981.

At the latter meeting the committee adopted the motion for a resolution by 25 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Früh, and Mr Caillavet, vice-chairmen; Mr Gautier, rapporteur; Mr Battersby, Mr Blaney (deputizing for Mr Skóvmand), Mr Bocklet, Mrs Castle, Mr Curry, Mr Delatte, Mr Diana, Mr Fanton, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr Josselin (deputizing for Mrs Cresson), Mr Kirk, Mr Louwes (deputizing for Mr Jürgens), Mr Maher, Mr Martin (deputizing for Mr Maffre-Baugé), Mr Nielsen, Mr Papapietro (deputizing for Miss Barbarella), Mr Pranchère, Mr Provan, Ms Quin, Mr Sutra, Mr Tolman, Mr Vernimmen, Mr Vitale, Mr Wettig and Mr Woltjer.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally.

The Opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution :

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the common organization of the market in fishery products

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(80)724 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-635/80),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc.1-841/80)
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 on the common organization of the market in fishery products,
 - having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation concerning the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1981 (COM(80)722 final),
 - having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation concerning the distribution among the Member States of the total catch possibilities in 1980 (Doc.1-350/80),
 - having regard to the proposals from the Commission to the Council relating to structural policy in the fisheries sector (Doc. 1-359/80),
 - having regard to the report by Mr CLINTON on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the common fisheries policy (Doc. 1-560/80),
1. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has proposed changes to the existing organization of the market in fishery products, which takes into account the new situation of the market ;
 2. Requests that, in drawing up detailed provisions and in their subsequent implementation, due account be taken of the interests of all partners involved in the market from the producers to the ultimate consumer ;

3. Appreciates the importance of laying down marketing standards and urges that the implementation of these standards will be monitored properly and that no fish will be bought into intervention which do not meet the standards ;
4. Recognizes the importance of active producers' organizations and advocates the granting of increased aid for a transitional period for the formation of such organizations, but expects the Commission to monitor the aid granted by the Member States to these organizations pursuant to Article 6 (4) and to take action if the latter receive aid which either infringes the rules of competition or is used for purposes which do not fall within the field of activities of the producers-organizations ;
5. Considers it necessary for the Member States to be free to decide whether non-members should be governed by the rules applicable to a producer organization and believes that application of any such provision requires caution ;
6. Is satisfied with the provision whereby producers' organizations can be granted exclusive recognition in their own economic area. Points out that fishermen from non-member countries who land their catches directly in the Community must be obliged to respect the marketing rules operated by the producer organizations at the point of landing ;
7. Welcomes the fact that price fixing can be made more flexible through the producers' organizations and considers that price fixing and adjustment of Community withdrawal prices must be made more flexible through direct participation by the Producers Organizations ;
8. Considers that it would be sensible for the guide price to be fixed on the basis of objective criteria ;
9. Welcomes the provisions laid down in Articles 12 and 13 relating to the principles underlying the fixing and application of withdrawal prices and on financial compensation to producer organizations for fish which is withdrawn from the market, but expects clarification of the fact that the financial compensation paid to the producers' organization for fish which have been withdrawn from the market should be calculated on the basis of a uniform Community buying-in price ;
10. Expects the Commission to apply Article 13 (2) in line with the Clinton report (Doc. 1-560/80), to make it easier for products withdrawn from the market to be used for human consumption without interfering with normal marketing ;

11. Advocates the granting of aids to private storage of certain frozen products, in particular the products of fishing in the Mediterranean ;
12. Points out that the Community cannot completely meet market requirements from its own catches and must therefore import fish. Expects that such imports will not be allowed to disrupt the common market ;
13. Expresses reservations at the procedure for calculating the free-at-frontier price provided for in Article 20 (2) and (3), as trade concessions would be translated into economic benefits as a result of this procedure ;
14. Welcomes the fact that the provisions of Article 20 (4) and (5) will allow a more flexible trade policy ; expects the Commission to define more clearly the term "large quantities" in Article 20 (4) ; within the rules of application expects the Commission to lay down rules on how infringements of Article 20 (4) et seq can be prevented ; enjoins the Commission to amend Article 20 (4) of its proposal to ensure as far as possible that no fish are imported below the Community's reference prices ;
15. Welcomes the condition that catch quotas must be complied with if financial aids are to be granted ;
16. Approves the Commission's proposal subject to the above points ;
17. Calls on the Council, in view of the urgent need to work out a new organization of the market in fishery products, to take a decision on the amended Commission proposal as a matter of urgency ; if the Council has not taken a decision by the end of March 1981, the European Parliament reserves the right to initiate a conciliation procedure.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

in the form of a letter from the chairman to Sir Henry PLUMB, chairman
of the Committee on Agriculture

Luxembourg, 30.1.1981

Subject: Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the common
organization of the market in fishery products
(COM (80) 724 final)

Dear Sir Henry,

At its meeting of 19 and 20 January 1981 the Committee on Budgets considered this proposal for a regulation. It noted that the proposal simply involved a review of the organization of the market in fishery products introduced in 1971 and amended in 1976. This revision was necessary in order to take account of market developments and the recently changed circumstances of the fishing industry since the general introduction of 200 n.m. fishery zones.

In several financial statements appended to the budget entries concerned, and in various annexes, the Commission has set out the financial implications in detail, from which it is clear that none of the planned changes to the market organization will result in any substantial overall increase in expenditure.

The Committee on Budget's opinion on the Commission proposals is therefore favourable.

Yours sincerely,

Erwin Lange

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom and Mr Spinelli, vice-chairmen;
Mr Ansquer, Mr Arndt, Mr Battersby (deputizing for Mr Newton Dunn),
Mr Bonde, Mr Colla, Mr d'Angelosante (deputizing for Mrs Boserup),
Mr Dankert, Mr Fich, Mr Flanagan, Mr Georgiadis, Mr Gouthier, Mr Howell,
Mr Nielson (deputizing for Mr Nord), Mr Jackson, Mr J.M. Taylor and
Mr Tuckman.