

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1975-1976

15 May 1975

DOCUMENT 65/75/Annex

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture

on the recommendation of the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 27/75) for a decision approving the exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the establishment by Norway of fishing zones closed to trawlers at certain times of the year

Draftsman of the opinion: Mr Michel CÍFARELLI

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Cifarelli draftsman of the opinion at its meeting of 22 and 23 April 1975.

It considered the Commission's document at its meeting of 12 May 1975 and adopted the draft opinion unanimously with one abstention.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman also deputizing for the draftsman of the opinion; Mr Brégégère, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Hansen, Mr Martens, Mr Brøndlund Nielsen, Mrs Orth and Mr Scott-Hopkins.

1. In formulating its opinion for the Committee on External Economic Relations, as the committee responsible, the Committee on Agriculture assumes that this matter will be considered against the background of the difficult situation currently facing the Community fishing industry.

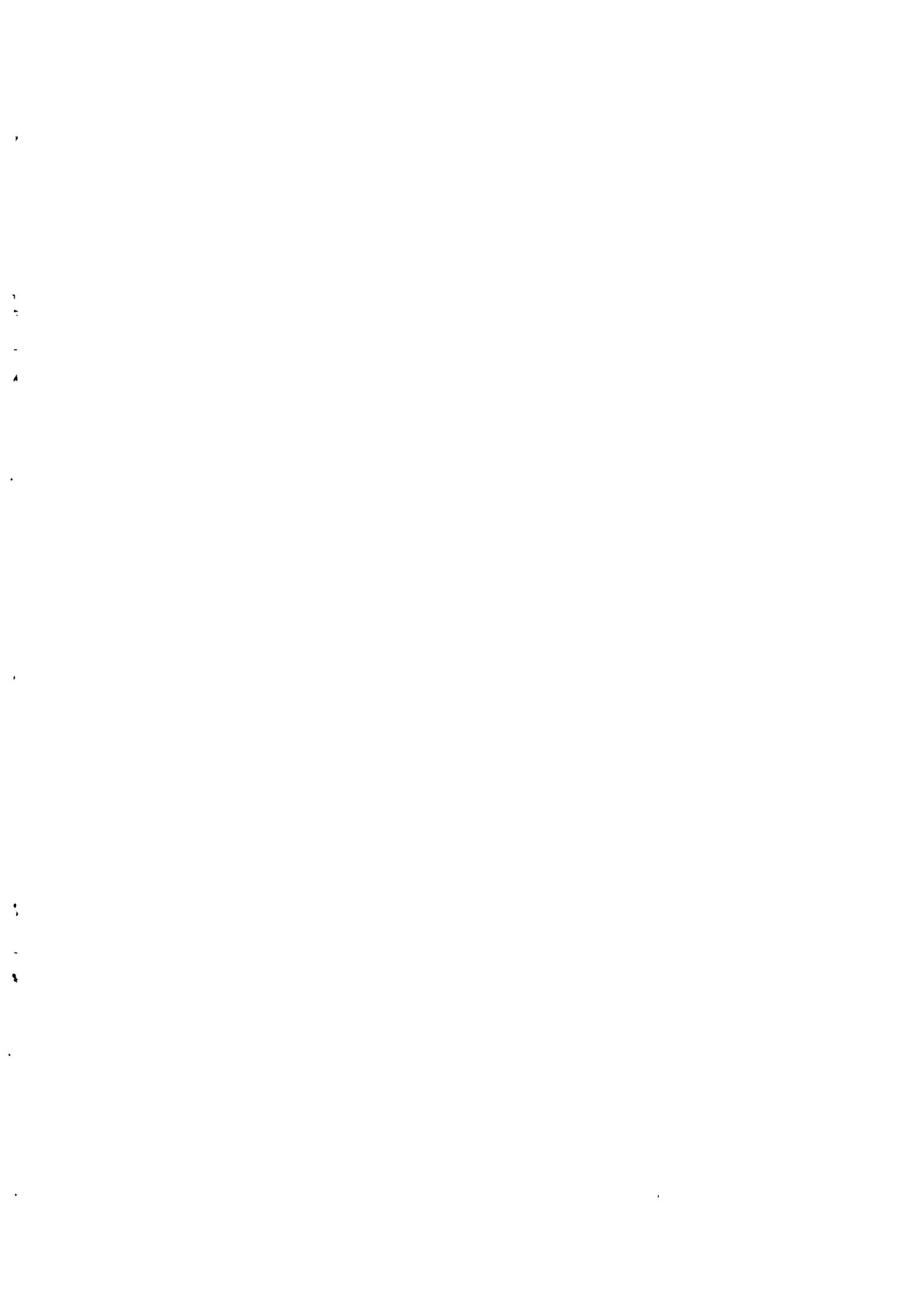
2. The Committee on Agriculture notes that the recommendation concerns the approval by the Council of an exchange of letters under which the Kingdom of Norway is to obtain from the Community recognition of the situation of three fishing zones (situated off the Norwegian coast) closed, at certain times of the year, on a non-discriminatory basis to trawlers of all nationalities, including Norwegian trawlers.

The purpose of this provision is to protect passive fishing gear.

3. Having regard to the non-discriminatory nature of the provision, the Committee on Agriculture has no special reasons for opposing approval of this exchange of letters.

4. However, it endorses the considerations set out in the letter from the representative of the Commission of the European Communities, annexed to the text under consideration, and stressing that the autonomous tariff concessions granted (with the 1973 agreement) by the Community to Norway for certain fish products are conditional on the 'maintenance of the present conditions of general competition in the fisheries sector' and on the 'maintenance of the situation concerning the legal and factual advantages as regards fishing off the Norwegian coast.'

5. The Committee on Agriculture also notes the conclusion reached by the Commission to the effect that 'in the present circumstances the effect of the establishment of these zones will not be so serious as to warrant concessions on Norwegian fish products' and invites the Commission to keep the development of the situation under review and report if need be to the Council and Parliament.



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