

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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DOCUMENT 1-174/80

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the Recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-135/80) for a Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters applying in 1980 the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Sweden on certain measures for the purpose of promoting the reproduction of salmon in the Baltic Sea

Rapporteur: Mr Eisso: WOLTJER

By letter of 30 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 on the recommendation for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters applying in 1980 the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Sweden on certain measures for the purpose of promoting the reproduction of salmon in the Baltic Sea.

On 2 May 1980 the President of the Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Woltjer rapporteur on 19 May 1980.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 19 May 1980 and at the same meeting unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement.

Present: Mr Fröh, acting-chairman and vice-chairman; Mr Ligios, vice-chairman; Mr Woltjer, rapporteur; Mr Blaney (deputizing for Mr Skovmand), Mr Clinton, Mr Colleselli, Mr De Keersmaeker (deputizing for Mr Bocklet), Mr Delatte, Mr Diana, Mr Helms, Mr Howell, Mr Jürgens, Mr Kirk, Mr McCartin (deputizing for Mr Dalsass), Mr Tolman and Mr Vernimmen.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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A.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters applying in 1980 the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swedish Government relating to certain measures intended to promote the reproduction of salmon in the Baltic Sea

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(80) 162 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-135/80),
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Agriculture and to the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc.1-174/80),
 - whereas fisheries agreements with Third Countries are essential to safeguard the future of the Community's fishing industry,
1. Notes that quota allocations of salmon, presently being fished by Community fishermen in the Swedish fishery zone, were granted on condition that there be a Community financial contribution to measures to encourage the reproduction of salmon in those waters;
 2. Approves the Commission's proposal only on condition that the Commission follows the previously expressed opinion of the European Parliament: that a financial contribution by fishermen should be levied on all Baltic salmon fishermen, be related to landings by each vessel, and not be set at such a level as to render future fishing operations un-economic;
 3. Requests the Commission to report in detail on
 - (a) its proposals for a future financial contribution by the salmon fishermen;
 - (b) the calculations by which the Community's contribution to Swedish reproduction measures has been fixed.

B.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Introduction

1. The conclusions of the consultations between the Community and Sweden on the fisheries for 1980, signed on 23 January 1980, provided for quota allocation of salmon to the Community in 1980 in the Swedish Baltic fisheries zone of 220 tonnes.

The Swedish salmon quota in the Community's zone was fixed at 20 tonnes.

In 1979 the Community quota was fixed at 325 tonnes, and the Swedish quota in Community waters at 25 tonnes.

The Community quota in the Swedish zone was allocated on the basis of 24 licences to be selected monthly out of 40 vessels, as against 35 licences to be selected out of 50 vessels for 1979.

Swedish vessels in the Community zone were granted 6 licences monthly out of a list of 12 vessels, as in 1979.

2. The Community salmon quotas in Swedish waters are allocated from 1 January - 31 December 1980 as follows:

Denmark 198 tonnes (1979 = 292.5 tonnes)
Germany 22 tonnes (1979 = 32.5 tonnes)

The quota allocations have yet to be transmitted to the European Parliament.

The Community/Swedish salmon reproduction agreement

3. The salmon quota allocations to the Community were granted subject to the drawing up of an agreement between the parties on measures to further the reproduction of salmon in the Baltic. Quota allocations to Community salmon fishermen in Swedish waters are granted on condition that there is some Community financial participation in Swedish measures for salmon reproduction.

4. It can be pointed out that informal arrangements have existed in the past between Denmark and Sweden for a financial contribution to salmon reproduction. For this purpose a tax was levied on all salmon landed in Denmark. The sums realised now, however, are insignificant and further measures, involving Community financing, must be instituted.

Financial participation by the Community

5. The Community's financial contribution provided for in the Agreement is fixed each year after consultations between the parties in accordance with Article 3 of the Agreement.

The cost is to vary according to the quota allocated and the practical scope available to the Swedish authorities for increasing production of smolts.

6. In 1979 the Community was asked to pay 2m EUA for 300 tonnes of salmon, and is asked in 1980 to pay 2,920,000 EUA for 200 tonnes¹ of salmon.

7. The costs to the Community budget for the current financial year has been estimated at 0.49m EUA as against 0.36m EUA in 1979.

8. The Community's financial contribution is not to exceed the cost of producing the number of smolts necessary to yield a quantity of salmon equal to the catch quota allocated by Sweden to the Community.

9. The Swedish Government has undertaken to supply to the EEC delegation documents giving the basis for the calculation of the costs of breeding, tagging and releasing smolts.

The Commission should make a report on these costs to the European Parliament, since the sums requested of the Community seem out of all proportion to salmon quotas granted.

Possible financial participation by the fishermen

10. It is clear that if the sums involved are to be financed in part by the fishermen concerned, even on the basis of 50% being paid by the Commission, there will be a further deterioration of the very weak economic position of the Danish salmon fishermen operating in the Baltic. These fishermen are mainly based on the island of Bornholm, which is heavily dependent on fishing for its economic future.

Any proposals for a financial contribution by fishermen should follow therefore the lines laid down in the report drawn up by Miss QUIN² on the Commission's previous proposal.

¹ 220 tonnes granted to the Community, minus the 20 tonnes granted to Sweden.

² Doc. 1-717/79

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee to Sir Henry PLUMB,
Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture

Strasbourg, 21 May 1980

Subject: Recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters applying in 1980 the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Sweden on certain measures for the purpose of promoting the reproduction of salmon in the Baltic Sea (Doc. 1-135/80)

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting on 21 May 1980 the Committee on Budgets approved the above Decision and the related Agreement.

Payments to Sweden for the current financial year (1980) in reimbursement of costs for fishing the Community's salmon quota amounts to 490,000 EUA.

My committee wishes to point out that the financial burden to the Community in coming years cannot be accurately forecast, as it will depend on the actual quantities of salmon bred. It therefore wishes to call for a report on the working of the Agreement in 1980, which would enable it to assess the financial implications for subsequent years.

On this condition, which would help us to avoid accepting in advance costs that are still unknown, the Committee on Budgets approves the Commission's Recommendation because the Community must honour its legal commitments to third countries.

Yours sincerely,

Erwin Lange

Present: Mr Lange, Chairman, Mr Adonnino, Mr Arndt, Mr Baillot, Mr Barbi, Mr Dankert, Mr Gouthier, Mr Harris (deputizing for Mr Jackson), Mrs Hoff, Mr Hord, Mr Newton Dunn (deputizing for Lord O'Hagan), Mr Pflimlin (deputizing for Mr Lange), Mr J.M. Taylor and Mr von Wogau (deputizing for Mr K. Schön)