

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

26 June 1981

DOCUMENT 1-267/81

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

**on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to
the Council (Doc. 1-97/81) for a Regulation amending Regulation
(EEC) No 1852/78 on the interim common measure for restructuring
the inshore fishing industry**

Rapporteur: Miss Joyce QUIN

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By letter of 2 April 1981 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 for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1852/78 on the interim common measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry.

On 9 April 1981, 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 22 April 1981, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Ms Quin rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 20-21 May 1981.

At the same meeting the Committee adopted the motion for a resolution by 16 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Ms Quin, rapporteur; Miss Barbarella, Mr Battersby, Mr Caillavet, Mr Clinton, Mr Cronin (deputizing for Mr Davern), Mr Curry, Mr Gatto, Mr Gautier, Mr Helms, Mr Hord, Mr Kirk, Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr Papaeftsiou, Mr Pranchère, Mr Provan, Mr Vergès (deputizing for Mr Vitale), Mr Vernimmen and Mr Wettig.

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 amendments and motion for a resolution:

AMENDMENT No. 1

tabled by Committee on Agriculture

Report by Ms Joyce QUIN

Interim measures restructuring inshore fishing industry

Proposal for a regulation Article 3(1)a)

Replace the words '24 metres' by the words '30 metres'

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 amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1852/78 on the interim common measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry

The European Parliament

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 77 final),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-97/81),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-267/81),
- having regard to the report drafted by Mr KIRK on regulations for a common structural policy in the fisheries sector (Doc. 1-679/80),
- 1. Considers that the basic elements of a future common fisheries policy are sufficiently well-known for decisions to be taken on a longer term structural policy;
- 2. Emphasizes that failure to adopt an overall structural fisheries policy will create the risk of a development of an unbalanced Community fishing fleet unable to face up to international competition;
- 3. Urges, therefore, the Council to adopt without further delay the proposal on measures to restructure the Community fishing fleet; and welcomes the modifications made to the proposal to adjust capacity in the fisheries sector;
- 4. Believes that the proposed interim common measures for the inshore fishing fleet, while useful in the short term, have created distortions between countries, particularly in view of the lack of a proper balance in the granting of aid by regions;
- Considers these distortions to be no longer acceptable since these interim measures have now to be applied for the fourth successive year without other complementary structural measures being implemented;
- 5. Considers that the criteria by which aid is allocated should be based on clearer, more objective principles which will allow for the development of an efficient and competitive Community fishing fleet.

6. Reminds the Commission that the term 'North Britain' should replace 'Scotland' in establishing criteria in structural policies as laid down in the Council Declaration of 1980 and the report presented by Mr KIRK and adopted by the European Parliament in July 1980;
7. Urges the Commission to ensure that proposals, whether short or longer term, should be based on a real plan for resource allocation intended to facilitate the adaptation of the Community's fishing fleet to the new geography of fishing;
Such proposals should include: More effective social measures to facilitate labour movement, retraining, and greater support for new cooperative ventures and the programmes of regional development organization;
8. Requests the Commission to draw up a report on the needs of fishermen in the designated priority regions, while defining more clearly the links between structural measures and fishing plans;
9. Points furthermore to the economic and social problems which can be faced by fishermen as a result of decisions on fish stocks - for example the problems faced by fishermen as a result of the recent decision to have no allocation for herring fishing in zone IV b;
10. Emphasizes that the financial allocation foreseen by the Commission proposal (25m ECUs) is totally inadequate given the serious problems faced by Community fishermen in the absence of a Common Fisheries Policy and in view of the entry of Greece, and should be significantly increased;
11. Believes that this amount should be increased as decided by the European Parliament in adopting the 1981 Budget and in the Report drawn up by Mr KIRK on measures for a fisheries structural policy;
12. Welcomes in this connection the fact that, to take account of its specific situation Greece figures among the regions of the Community in which the contribution from the EAGGF may be as high as 50%;
13. Believes that the criteria by which applications are judged should be published and the evaluation policies of the Commission made clearer to fishermen;
14. Stresses the importance of the modernization of existing vessels, particularly through the installation of ice-making machinery and storage tanks on board vessels;
15. Stresses the importance of greater Community financing, together with an improved coordination, of research on measures to save fuel on fishing vessels;

16. Believes that national aids should be more strictly controlled and permitted only within a Community framework;
17. Believes that criteria for the grant of aid should take into account more clearly differences by region of needs for restructuring the fishing fleets;
18. Stresses that it is essential for the Commission to have thorough and continuous discussions with working fishermen when drawing up and implementing measures in this sector;
19. Requests the Commission to incorporate the above amendment in its proposal, pursuant to Article 149, second paragraph of the EEC Treaty;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Sir Henry Plumb, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Strasbourg, 7 July 1981

Re: Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1852/78 on the interim common measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry (COM(81) 77 final)

Dear Mr Lange,

The Committee on Budgets considered the above-mentioned proposal at its meeting on 6 July 1981.

The amendment to Regulation (EEC) No. 1852/78 proposed by the Commission is the fourth extension of a regulation adopted in 1978 as an interim measure. The Committee on Budgets regrets again that this is only a small part of the overall plan for the restructuring of the inshore fishing industry which has not yet been adopted. This fact endangers the effectiveness and profitability of the expenditure.

Since the proposed funds of 25 million ECUs are available in the 1981 budget, the Committee on Budgets was able to agree to the extension of the measures. It would however again refer to the criticisms which it has already made on earlier occasions in relation to the procedural rules contained in Article 12 which give the Council executive power where the Commission is not in agreement with the Standing Committee for the Fishing Industry.

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(sgd.) Erwin Lange

Present : Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom, vice-chairman; Mr Aigner, Mr Arndt, Mr Baillot, Mr Balfour, Mr Barbi, Mrs Boserup, Mr Dankert, Mr Forth, Mr Georgiadis, Mrs Hoff, Mr Jackson, Mr Newton Dunn, Mr Price, Mrs Pruvot (deputizing for Mrs Scrivener), Mr Schön, Mr Simonnet, Mr Tuckman and Mrs Vayssade (deputizing for Mr Jalton).

