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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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12 January 1979

DOCUMENT 554/78

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (\*)

tabled by Mr HUGHES

on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

with request for debate by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 24 of the Rules of  
Procedure

on the common fisheries policy

0.2.1

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(\*) adopted unanimously at the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of  
18/19 December 1978

Present: Mr Hughes, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Andersen, Mr Brugger, Mr  
Corrie, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Halvgard, Mr Lemp, Mr W. Müller, Mr Nielsen Brondlund, Mr  
Scott-Hopkins, Mr Vitale.

GROUNDS FOR THE REQUEST FOR URGENT PROCEDURE

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture to Mr Emilio COLOMBO, President of the European Parliament

Luxembourg, 3 January 1979

Dear Mr President,

At its meeting of 18 and 19 December 1978 the Committee on Agriculture adopted a resolution tabled by Mr HUGHES on a common fisheries policy (PE 56.477/fin.).

In view of the importance of the fishing industry to the economies of certain regions of the Community and the very serious problems created by the depletion of fish stocks and hence of the need for the Community to reach a common policy on the subject, without which it would be impossible to conclude agreements with third countries, the Committee on Agriculture would like to urge the Council to assume its responsibilities in this sector and reach agreement without delay.

These considerations led to the tabling of the resolution and to the decision of the Committee on Agriculture to request that the matter be dealt with in Parliament's January part-session by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure.

I should be grateful if you would forward this request to the enlarged Bureau for a decision.

Henri CAILLAVET

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the failure of the Council to reach an agreement on a common fisheries policy,
- having regard to the reports of the Committee on Agriculture drawn up by Mr Corrie (Doc. 543/77), Mr Kofoed (Doc. 474/76) and Mr Corrie (Doc. 442/77)
- having regard to the importance of the fishing industry to the economies of certain regions of the Community and the very serious problems created by the depletion of fish stocks,
- having regard to the fact that an internal fisheries policy must seek to conserve the biological resources of the sea by means of scientifically derived management policies, quotas and conservation policies,
- having regard to the fact that the lack of an internal fisheries regime has prevented the possibility of reaching essential agreements with third countries,

General proposals:

1. Believes that the principal objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy should be to achieve a balanced development of the fishing industry so as to conserve biological resources of the sea, based on the establishment of scientifically derived quotas and management policies, so as:
  - (a) in the short term, to safeguard particularly endangered species and so protect the future of the fishing industry, particularly in those regions heavily dependent on fishing;
  - (b) in the longer term, to adopt an approach based on marine models in order to ensure the correct balance between species, and between fishing for human consumption and industrial fishing;
2. Considers that these objectives cannot be achieved by quotas alone. A whole range of instruments are required, such as fishing plans, reserved zones, seasonally closed zones for particular species and regulations concerning equipment and types of fishing.

Fishing plans and reserved or closed zones shall vary:

  - (i) in the extent of their geographical application,
  - (ii) in the degree of preference accorded to local communities and to vessels of limited size and range of operation.

In determining the provisions of each fishing plan, attention shall be paid:

- to the biological characteristics of the fish stocks,
- to the normal patterns of fishing and the resulting economic realities,
- to the social requirements, and particularly dependence on fishing and related industries;

Fishing plans shall be drawn up by the Commission and the interested Member States on the basis of total allowable catches, quota allocation, and taking into account the requirements of fish stock conservation and the need of Communities dependent on the fishing industry;

Fishing plans shall be revised to take into account revision of total allowable catches and according to the procedure laid down in Article 43 of the EEC Treaty;

Vessels under a certain length, for example 12 metres, shall be excluded from fishing plans provided that, when evaluating fishing plans, their catching capacity will be taken into account;

3. Emphasises, once more, that national preferential zones will do little to protect the interests of the inshore fishermen; and that
  - (a) in order to protect the interests of particular communities highly dependent on fishing, there should be created regional zones of variable extent in which the fishing of certain species is reserved to littoral boats of a certain capacity, and that
  - (b) such zones should be delimited by taking into account regional and social factors and traditional patterns of fishing within these regions;
4. Considers, at the same time, that there should be created a twelve mile belt, in which:
  - (a) preference shall be granted to vessels of limited size and range of operation and local inshore vessels, and,
  - (b) limited access to non-coastal vessels shall be granted ; such access shall be quantified and shall be determined by reference to traditional fishing patterns on the basis of a sufficiently long ; reference period and after taking into account the needs of conservation policies and the preference granted to local inshore vessels ;
5. Does not believe that quotas should be based exclusively on past performance but that other criteria, such as compensation for losses in third country waters, the needs of particular regions nearby dependent on fishing and historic fishing rights should also be taken into account in the drawing up of quotas for the distribution of total allowable

catches in 1979 and allocating further amount resulting from an upward revision of total allowable catches;

#### Conservation measures

6. Considers that equal attention must be paid to the establishment of minimum net sizes in certain areas and depths of water, and to minimum landing sizes for each species;
7. Requests the Commission to draw up a report on national conservation measures in force;
8. Believes that the question of the delimitation of the Norway Pout Box needs to be considered in the light of further scientific evidence concerning catches and stocks;
9. Considers that strict measures must be enforced to regulate the number of nets carried on board vessels, such measures varied according to each zone and on the basis of a classification of types of vessels;
10. Believes there should be maintained:
  - (a) strict quotas or bans where necessary for direct herring fishing in the North Seas, the West Celtic Sea, West of Ireland, Irish Sea, West of Scotland, Mourne and Manx stocks and Western Seas;
  - (b) ban on industrial fishing for herring;
  - (c) restrictions on permitted by-catches of herring.

#### Industrial fishing

11. Believes that industrial fishing is not a less justifiable economic activity than other forms of fishing but must be judged in terms of its impact upon stocks of fish for human consumption and the relative employment possibilities offered by fishing for human consumption and industrial fishing;
12. Urges that factory ships engaged in industrial fishing should be banned since no control of fish species transformed can be effected;
13. Considers that greater study is required of the inter-relationships of fish stocks and the possible beneficial effects on feed chains of increased fishing of certain species not intended for human consumption;
14. Believes that efforts are required to identify new species, in Community and particularly third country waters, suitable for the fish meal industry;

### Control measures

15. Considers that it is essential to establish an effective system for fishery inspection within the Community zone based on national inspection systems, with the Member States acting as agents on behalf of the Commission; including an effective monitoring system coordinated by the Commission, covering individual boats and landings at each port by species, extending to Community and third country boats landing at ports outside the Community or transshipping to factory ships inside or outside Community waters;  
  
and that agreements concluded with third countries should include reciprocal provisions for the supervision of landings;
16. Emphasises that a licence system must be established, covering boats, equipment, owners, skippers, the numbers of days on which boats may operate, the zone of operation and the species which may be caught;
17. Considers that costs of inspection should be considered as part of the total cost of the implementation of the common fisheries policy, with financial assistance to Member States where necessary;
18. Underlines that sanctions must be clearly defined and the methods for granting and withdrawing licences determined, and that catch-quotas allocated to Member States to be based, in future reviews, partly on the degree to which they respect conservation measures;

### Structural Policy

19. Believes that the establishment of effective quotas will lead to a number of fishing vessels, particularly the larger deep-sea vessels, becoming uneconomic, so that measures for the conservation of fish stocks will depend on the existence of an effective structural policy;
20. Requests that immediate attention should be paid to:
  - the reconversion of deep-sea boats and their replacement by middle water boats;
  - adaptation of processing and marketing to under-exploited fish species such as blue whiting and horse mackerel;
21. Stresses the importance of a substantial financial contribution by the Community to the development of fish farming;
22. Believes that measures should be drawn up in conjunction with the Regional and Social Funds to establish alternative employment for those

land-based workers dependent on the fishing industry who will be affected by conservation measures to be adopted, the adjustment to 200 mile fishing zones and reduction in industrial fishing;

#### National Aids

23. Considers that there should be established common rules to govern aids to the fishing industry, recognising the interests of unfavoured regions;

#### Research Programmes

24. Urges that Community aids be granted to fishery research centres in Member States, with research programmes coordinated by the Commission;

#### Market Organisation

25. Considers that greater attention be paid to the question of the marketing of fresh and chilled fish, in view of the very great discrepancies in prices within the Community;
26. Requests the Commission to examine the impact of quotas upon prices, consumption patterns and incomes in the fishing sector.
27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Community and, for information, to the governments of the Member States.

