

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING

European Parliament - national Parliaments

REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY : THE OPINION OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

Brussels, 28 February 2012
European Parliament
Room PHS - 3C050
15h00 - 18h30

An orientation to the debate

Introduction :

The European fishing industry is at the crossroads. The previous reform of the CFP did not achieve its key objectives. A thorough reform of European fishing practices is essential if we wish to lay the foundations of an environmentally sustainable and socio-economically viable European fishing industry.

Respect for resources and the environment, sufficient supply of quality fisheries and aquaculture products, prosperity of coastal regions and fishing sector enterprises all along the production chain, making the sector more attractive by improving working conditions are the key points which the Commission's reform package addresses, with the overarching ambition of ensuring the sustainability of the European fishing industry. But this aim should not be removed from the socio-economic context in which it is set: with 23 million people unemployed in the European Union, the fisheries and aquaculture sectors must be seen as important direct and indirect sources of jobs in our maritime regions.

At this stage it is up to European Parliament - with the help of National Parliaments - to put these priorities in order, and to play its full part as co-legislator, by defining a political framework covering the various issues set out in the Commission's legislative proposals. These three proposals will be the main focus of this interparliamentary committee meeting, during which National Parliaments are expected to deliver their opinion and to feed the debate which will lead later to the draft reports of the EP committee on fisheries.

Panel 1 : Basic Regulation
Rapporteur : Ulrike RODUST (S&D, Germany)

This is the "*masterpiece*" of the Reform, which covers a broad part of the objectives of the CFP, and includes sustainability initiatives, socio-economic measures to ensure the future of fisheries and aquaculture sectors, major changes in the CFP governance, and new dimensions of the external policy.

More precisely, the main issues to be discussed within this panel are:

- **General provisions and objectives, including "MSY"** (*'maximum sustainable yield'*)
- **Discards**
- **Multiannual plans**
- **Transferable Fishing Concessions**
- **Management of Fishing Capacities**
- **Regionalisation**
- **New governance and the role of the Regional Advisory Councils**
- **External Policy**

Panel 2 : Common Organisation of the Market
Rapporteur : Struan STEVENSON (ECR, UK)

The CMO is the first component of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and has been in place since 1970. The proposed reform of the CFP provides the EU legislator and stakeholders with an opportunity to take stock and improve existing CMO instruments - including the role of Producer Organisations - and to analyse recent market developments.

This second panel should lead to debates on:

- **Creation and role of POs** (*aquaculture POs, transnational POs, associations of POs, inter-branch organisations*)
- **Improvement of market intelligence**
- **Single storage mechanism as systems of market intervention**

- **EU eco-label for sustainable fishing**
- **Creation of a level playing-field between EU fisheries products and imported products**
- Definition of "**Marketing Standards**" (minimum marketing sizes, canned products, hygiene, etc.)

Panel 3 : European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
Rapporteur : Alain CADEC (EPP, FRANCE)

The current proposal for the Regulation on **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** (EMFF) aims at achieving the objectives of the reformed CFP and of Integrated Maritime Policy. The EMFF proposal provides that a significant part of the EU budget should continue to be dedicated to fisheries and maritime policies. The EMFF budget amounts, in current prices to € 6 567 million. The proposal entitles to finance all the current policies (inc. conservation and research, etc.) at the exception of the financing of SFAs and the compulsory contribution to RFMOs.

In line with the two previous panels, the discussions on EMFF should focus on the following points:

- the **promotion of sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture**;
- fostering the development and implementation of the **Union's Integrated Maritime Policy, in a complementary manner to cohesion policy and to CFP**;
- promotion of **balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas** (*including aquaculture and inland fishing*);
- contribution to the **implementation of the CFP**.
