Answer given by Mr Kinnock on behalf of the Commission

(30 September 2002)

The Commission does not employ unpaid workers. Officials and other servants engaged under contract by the Commission earn more than the statutory minimum wage in their own country.

The Commission has 17 special advisors under contract, who are retired senior officials and receive pensions but not salaries.

(2003/C110E/033)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2179/02
by Camilo Nogueira Román (Verts/ALE) to the Commission

(18 July 2002)

Subject: Financial estimates for the implementation of the legislative proposals and measures in the second package of proposals for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy

The conclusions of the Commission Communication on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy\(^1\) announce, inter alia, legislative proposals and measures to counter the social, economic and regional consequences of the restructuring of the fishing industry; management of fisheries; improvement of scientific advice for fisheries management; discards; stock evaluation in non-Community waters and the Joint Inspection Structure.

What are the financial estimates for these measures in the period 2002-2006, taking into account the financial framework established in Agenda 2000?


Answer given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission

(13 September 2002)

The document to which the Honourable Member is referring is the general communication also known as the Roadmap for Reform. It refers to a series of texts and proposals to be adopted during the reform process, not all of which are estimated to have a budgetary impact.

The clearest guide to the financial impact of the reform measures already decided at Commission level is provided in the Communication on the conservation of fisheries\(^2\) resources and in particular in the legal and financial statement which is annexed to it.

This covers:

- the Community measure for scrapping fishing vessels\(^3\) — EUR 32 millions in 2003, reprogramming in the financial instrument for fisheries guidance (FIFG) afterwards;
- the feasibility study for a joint Inspection Structure in 2003 — EUR 1 million — the definitive budget needed can only be fixed once the results of the study are known;
- amounts for the reinforcement of dialogue and governance from 2003 (EUR 400 000) to 2006 (EUR 700 000);
- the improvement of scientific advice with EUR 4 millions requested in 2003 rising to EUR 7 millions in 2006.

The other topics referred to are not expected to generate additional costs over and above those which can
be catered for in the normal budgetary procedure and within the financial perspectives ceilings.

(2) Document COM(2002) 190 gives more details on this, particularly the socio-economic aspects.

(2003/C 110 E/034)
WRITTEN QUESTION E-2192/02
by Daniel Varela Suárezes-Carpegna (PPE-DE) to the Commission
(19 July 2002)

Subject: International trade in fishmeal in the EU

Can the Commission provide information on the volumes and countries of origin of fishmeal imported
into the EU?

Does the Commission take the view that the Community domestic market could be covered by importing
fishmeal from third countries?

Answer given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission
(24 September 2002)

Details of fishmeal imports into the Union are sent direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament’s
Secretariat.

The average annual Community fishmeal consumption in the five years period 1996-2000 is estimated at
999 100 tonnes. Community production in this period averaged 545 400 tonnes per annum. As some of
the Community production is exported, roughly half the Community domestic market was supplied by
Community production in this period. While the level of fishmeal production in the European Free Trade
Association (EFTA) states almost equals that of the Community, Norway is a net importer of fishmeal on
account of the large salmon farming sector.

World production of fishmeal averages 6 200 000 tonnes per annum but can go down as low as
4 500 000 in ‘El Niño’ years when landings in the top producing nations Peru and Chile are reduced due to
oceanic factors. This drop last occurred in the period 1997-1998 and the Comité Oceanográfico Nacional
(Chile) announced on 18 July 2002 that a new El Niño event has just commenced which means that South
American production will drop again in the short term.

Average Community consumption for the two years 2000 and 2001 was 28% of world fishmeal exports.
In the ‘El Niño’ year 1998 it was 50% of world exports. Because of the high level of consumption in the
Community it would not be prudent to depend solely on imports from third countries, not only on
account of fluctuations in supply, but also because of growing demand worldwide.

Demand for fish meal in the Far East grew by over 50% in the 1990s and this region now consumes 55%
of world supply. Consumption in the Far East exceeded European consumption by a factor of 3,35 in
2000.

A recent analysis undertaken by Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) indicates that demand for fish
feed for use in aquaculture will increase by 240% in the next ten years; while in the same period the use
of fish meal will increase by 150% and fish oil by 170%. This is based on the prediction that by 2010
more than 90% of world fish oil and 56% of fishmeal will be used in fish feed. While the Community is
currently funding research into alternative protein and oil sources for aquaculture, no conclusive results are
available at the present time.