

**Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 89/631/EEC on a Community financial contribution towards expenditure incurred by Member States for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources<sup>(1)</sup>**

(92/C 313/20)

On 18 May 1992 the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 198 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Economic and Social Committee decided to appoint Mr Silva as Rapporteur-General for its Opinion.

At its 299th Plenary Session (meeting of 24 September 1992), the Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted the following Opinion.

**1. Introduction**

1.1. The proposal seeks to amend Council Decision 89/631/EEC<sup>(2)</sup>. This Decision gave the Community the power, until 31 December 1991, to contribute towards expenditure incurred by Member States in enforcing fishery conservation measures in the Mediterranean pending the adoption of EC rules applicable to that area.

1.2. Since common rules for Mediterranean waters have still not been adopted, the present proposal seeks to allow the Community to continue to contribute financially towards Member States' conservation programmes, until such rules are adopted.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 138, 28. 5. 1992, p. 10.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 364, 14. 12. 1989, p. 64

**2. General comments**

2.1. The Committee approves the Decision.

2.2. However, whilst appreciating the complex and diverse circumstances involved, the Committee regrets that it has not yet proved possible to establish a common legal framework allowing balanced, rational exploitation of the fishery resources of the Mediterranean.

2.3. The Committee<sup>(3)</sup> reiterates the need for an appropriate policy for the conservation and management of fishery resources. This key plank of the Common Fisheries Policy is essential for the survival of the fisheries sector and the communities which depend on it, and thus of the socio-economic fabric of the Community's coastal regions.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 339, 31. 12. 1991; OJ No C 223, 31. 8. 1992.

Done at Brussels, 24 September 1992.

*The Chairman  
of the Economic and Social Committee*

Michael GEUENICH