

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 460/2004 establishing the European Network and Information Security Agency as regards its duration

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(2008/C 162/15)

On 24 January 2008 the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 460/2004 establishing the European Network and Information Security Agency as regards its duration

Since the Committee unreservedly endorses the proposal and feels that it requires no comment on its part, it decided, at its 442nd plenary session of 13 and 14 February 2008 (meeting of 13 February 2008), by 134 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions, to issue an opinion endorsing the proposed text.

Brussels, 13 February 2008.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on Rights-based management tools in fisheries

(2008/C 162/16)

On 27 September 2007, the European Economic and Social Committee decided to draw up an own-initiative opinion, under Rule 29(2) of its Rules of Procedure, on

Rights-based management tools in fisheries.

The Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its opinion on 22 January 2008. The rapporteur was Mr Sarró Iparraguirre.

At its 442nd plenary session, held on 13 and 14 February 2008 (meeting of 13 February), the European Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion by 110 votes to two with five abstentions.

1. Conclusions

1.1 The EESC considers that, once the discussion phase is over, the Commission should conduct a study focusing on the current capacities of Community fleets and the quotas needed to ensure their competitiveness, whilst respecting the sustainability of Community fishing grounds.

1.2 This study should address the updating of Member States' rights acquired on the basis of the principle of relative stability and taking account of the 24 years that have elapsed since 1983.

1.3 This update should allow for the periodical allocation of quotas, e.g. for a period of five years, so that quotas can be redistributed in the event of any imbalances re-emerging.

1.4 The update should work out the best solutions for eliminating the imbalances currently affecting quotas for certain pelagic and demersal species in specific fishing zones, which for most Member States result in excessive quotas or deficient quotas.

1.5 In any case, the quotas involved should be based on scientifically proven data. The EESC therefore believes that greater efforts should be made to improve scientific knowledge of resources. Currently, most quotas are established on the basis of the precautionary approach, due to a lack of sufficient scientific data.