

COMMISSION DECISION

of 7 June 1968

setting up a Joint Advisory Committee on Social Questions arising in the
Sea Fishing Industry

(68/252/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Whereas in the Report¹ on the Situation in the Sea Fishing Industry in Member States of the EEC and Basic Principles for a Common Policy, Chapter X: 'Basic principles for a common fisheries policy', Section F, 'Social policy', the Commission provided for the setting up of a Joint Advisory Committee with the task of giving its views to the Commission on all social questions affecting both sides, employers and workers, of the sea fishing industry;

Whereas, in points 19 and 20 of its resolution adopted on 25 January 1968 on the basic principles for a common fisheries policy, the European Parliament requested that a Joint Advisory Committee be set up on social questions arising in the sea fishing industry;

Whereas, in its Opinion of 7 November 1967, the Commission for Social Affairs and Public Health of the European Parliament stressed the desirability of setting up a Joint Advisory Committee;

Whereas the Economic and Social Committee, in its Opinion of 26 January 1967, referred under point 6 to various social questions affecting the two sides of the sea fishing industry which make it essential that consultations should be held between representatives of fisheries employers and workers;

Whereas, during the consultations between the two sides of industry held on 3 and 4 November 1966 on the social aspects of a common fisheries policy, the employers and workers unanimously expressed the wish that a Joint Advisory Committee be set up as soon as possible;

Whereas it is important that the Commission obtain the views of the two sides of industry on social questions arising in sea fisheries which concern them as such and that the two sides directly concerned

with such questions should be able to take part in formulating the Opinions on these matters requested by the Commission;

Whereas the various representative bodies in the sea fishing industry have set up organisations at Community level;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. There shall be attached to the Commission a Committee called the 'Joint Advisory Committee on Social Questions arising in the Sea Fishing Industry'.
2. The Committee shall consist of representatives of fisheries employers and workers.

Article 2

The Committee may be consulted by the Commission on all social questions affecting the two sides, employers and workers, of the sea fishing industry.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman acting jointly may draw the attention of the Commission to the desirability of consulting the Committee on any matter within the latter's competence on which its opinion has not been sought. They shall do so where the request for consultation is made by one half of the members of the Committee.

Article 3

- (a) The Committee shall consist of twenty-four full members and twenty-four alternate members.
- (b) Seats on the Committee shall be apportioned as follows:
 - to employers, twelve full members and twelve alternate members;
 - to workers twelve full members and twelve alternate members.

¹ OJ No 58, 29.3.1967.

- (c) Alternate members shall attend Committee meetings and take part in the work of the Committee only in the event of full members being unable to do so, except where, in pursuance of Article 6, they are attending as experts.

Article 4

- (a) Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Commission on proposals from the following organisations set up at Community level to represent the various sections of the industry;

Workers:

- Committee of ITF Unions in the EEC (ITF — ICFTU);
- European Transport Committee (ETC — IFCTU);

Employers:

- Association of National Organisations of EEC Fisheries Undertakings (EUROPECHE);
- Special Committee of Fishery Co-operatives in EEC Countries (COGECA).

- (b) The list of Committee members shall be published for information in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

- (c) The term of office for members and alternates shall be three years. Their appointments may be renewed. The duties performed shall be unremunerated.

After expiry of the three years, members and alternates shall remain in office until replaced.

In the event of the death or resignation of a member or alternate, or of his ceasing to belong to the organisation which he represents, he shall be replaced for the remainder of his term of office.

Article 5

The Committee shall, by a two-thirds majority of full members present or represented, elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman each year from among its members. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman may not both come from the same side of the industry; they shall be chosen alternately from the two sides represented. They shall be responsible for relations with the Commission.

The Commission shall provide secretarial services for the Committee and for the working parties.

Article 6

At the request of one of the organisations represented, the Chairman may invite an alternate of the central body of the organisation in question to attend meetings. He may also request the presence, in an expert capacity, of any person with special qualifications in a subject on the agenda. Experts

shall be present only at the discussion of that particular question on account of which they were invited.

Article 7

The Committee may set up working parties to prepare, on specific questions or in specific fields, draft Opinions to be submitted to the Committee for consideration. These working parties shall consist of a limited number of members or alternate members.

Article 8

1. The Committee and the working parties shall meet when convened by the Commission.
2. Representatives of the Commission departments concerned shall take part in these meetings.

Article 9

An Opinion delivered by the Committee shall not be valid unless two thirds of the full members are present or represented.

The Commission may, when seeking the Opinion of the Committee, set a time limit within which such Opinion shall be given.

In the event of unanimous agreement being reached in the Committee on the Opinion to be given to the Commission the Committee shall formulate joint conclusions and attach them to the report of its proceedings forwarded to the Commission. Otherwise the opinions expressed by each of the sides represented shall be included in that report.

Article 10

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 214 of the Treaty, where the Commission indicates that the Opinion requested is on a matter of a confidential nature, persons present at the meetings of the Committee and of the working parties shall not disclose information which has come to their knowledge through the work of the Committee. In such cases only members of the Committee and representatives of the Commission departments concerned shall attend the meetings.

Article 11

After hearing the Committee, the present Decision may be amended in the light of experience.

Done at Brussels, 7 June 1968

For the Commission
The President
Jean REY