

European Parliament adopted resolution on fishery product traceability

The European Parliament (EP) yesterday passed a resolution to call the European Commission and member states for more control over fish product traceability in the EU.

The European Parliament expresses its "concern" over the results of various studies showing "significant" levels of mislabelling in member states so it bets on a "solid" surveillance from landing to consumption and proposes the creation of a common ecological certificate for EU fisheries in order to boost the sector.

The resolution came from a question made by the chairperson of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament, Alain Cadec, following a report by the environmental organization [Oceana](#) claiming that one in three fish served in restaurants in Brussels, even in EU buildings, does not correspond with the species paid by the consumer, but it is replaced by others that are up to 40 per cent cheaper.

Parliament also denounced "confusing labelling" as in the case of the fishing zone IXa (from Finisterre to the Gulf of Cadiz), where the Galician product is certified as having been caught "in Portuguese waters."

The EP's document calls for the creation of a working board to "harmonize" the traceability of products among member countries, the establishment of an external system to countries in order to verify voluntary labelling and the implementation of an ecological certificate for EU fish.

According to MEPs, these measures would improve consumer confidence and reinforce the Community market, which are "key factors" to reduce trade dependence on fish imports and boost the economic development of Europe's coastal communities.

Oceana, author of the study that led to the resolution, welcomed the European Parliament's decision and urged the EU to issue a comprehensive report on the product sold in restaurants from all member countries to elucidate "when, how and why" fish is wrongly certified.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&ndb=1&id=84316>