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Check Against Delivery
Seul le texte prononcé fait foi
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

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Mr President, Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank Mr Rivellini for his work on this Report. I am pleased to see the very strong support of the Fisheries Committee and of the Parliament on the substance of this important proposal.

I agree that the implementation of the various measures adopted by GFCM is indeed key to ensure the sustainable management of fishery resources in the Mediterranean.

We have to do it because the Mediterranean needs it and to protect biodiversity in the Mediterranean, and to secure that the Mediterranean Sea will not turn into a dead sea.

As you know, the recommendations of GFCM become binding upon the European Union and in accordance to the Treaty, to the Member States, from the date determined by the GFCM.

Timely transposition is necessary in order to make these international measures directly applicable to natural or legal persons at EU level and to ensure legal certainty to that effect.

We need to avoid that the transposition of GFCM measures becomes a modern version of the myth of Sisyphus. Already now transposition of measures adopted by GFCM in the last years is pending adoption of this regulation, but very soon GFCM will most likely adopt new amendments requiring effective transposition into EU law within a fixed deadline.

That is why I do believe that the Commission should have delegated powers for transposing all future amendments into EU law.

I am really concerned that the limitation of delegated powers to the Commission will be followed by higher risks of having no timely transposition into EU law.

I therefore regret that the institutions cannot agree on this important question. I would like to underline that such delays would compromise the EU's ability to comply with its international obligations. They would also undermine the EU's credibility in GFCM and other international fisheries organisations.

However, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do believe that we need to proceed towards adoption of the regulation quickly.

I do therefore welcome the position by the European Parliament as a step in the right direction. I hope that further similar steps will allow us to unblock negotiations on this proposal and proceed with its adoption.

At the same time, it is necessary to continue to reflect on the most effective ways to transpose into EU law measures by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

From our side we will continue to look for better solutions and I invite you to join our efforts.

I would once again like to thank Mr Rivellini for the Report and the Fisheries Committee for its good efforts regarding this important issue.

Thank you.