

Joint statement by Cogeca and Europêche on the negotiations on the accession of Spain and Portugal to the EEC (Brussels, 13 June 1984)

Caption: On 13 June 1984, the EEC Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises (Europêche) and the EEC General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation (Cogeca) publish a joint statement for the President-in-Office of the Council in which they express their concerns at the rapid negotiations with Portugal and Spain in the fields of agriculture and fisheries and the need for a transitional period for the integration of the two countries into the Community.

Source: Archives historiques du Conseil de l'Union européenne, Bruxelles, Rue de la Loi 175. Adhésion du Portugal, 07.151 (469): 07. Dossiers 579-593, Boîte 70. L'élargissement de la Communauté traité dans le cadre des négociations d'adhésion du Portugal: prises de position du COPA-COGECA, Dossier n° 590.

Joint statement by COGECA and EUROPECHE on the negotiations on the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community in the fisheries sector, P (84)12; EP (84)15. Brussels: Cogeca - Europêche, 13.06.1984. 2 p.

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The EEC agricultural and fisheries co-operatives represented by COGECA and the national organisations of EEC fishing enterprises that make up EUROPECHE are very deeply concerned about the precipitate way in which the negotiations on the accession of Spain and Portugal are currently being conducted.

COGECA and EUROPECHE consider that in view of the differences of view that still exist, notably on agriculture and own resources and of the fact that according to their information insufficient work has been done on fisheries questions it is absurd and unrealistic to seek at any price to meet the deadline of 30 September 1984 for the conclusion of the negotiations.

They are of the opinion that for a number of reasons, which are mainly technical, but also political and administrative, it will be extremely difficult to meet this deadline if the risk of concluding an unsatisfactory agreement, which would not be desirable for any of the three partners, is to be avoided.

COGECA and EUROPECHE wish particularly to stress the following points:

- The Community has neither established a sufficiently clear position with regard to certain Spanish territories not on the mainland nor expressed its opinion on the social aspects of the fisheries sector. On this latter question the two applicant countries will have to make strenuous efforts to reorganise and adjust their social legislation in order to bring it progressively into line with that in force – though there are disparities between existing Member states – in the Community. COGECA and EUROPECHE consider that it is therefore absolutely necessary for the EC to find satisfactory solutions to these questions before concluding the negotiations.
- COGECA and EUROPECHE consider it essential not to disturb the fragile balance in the common fisheries policy which was achieved on January 25, 1983. They therefore request the Community to remain firm on the *acquis communautaire* with regard to both access to fishing waters and to resources, the common organisation of the market and structural policy, without which there is a danger that the entire marine resource management policy of the Community will ultimately be endangered.
- Furthermore COGECA and EUROPECHE attach paramount importance to the future financial implications of accession being assessed as accurately as possible. They also emphasize the need for the negotiating work on the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community in the fisheries sector to be carried out with full knowledge and in full awareness of the practical implications of enlargement (there will be a substantial increase in the number of fishing vessels and in total fishing capacity, production for human consumption will expand, marine resources extracted by vessels operating under Third Countries flags will have duty free access to the market of the enlarged Community...).
- They also take the view that in view of the present situation both in the existing Community and in the two applicant countries a transitional period that is long enough to allow Spain and Portugal to become integrated into the Community is vital.
- Lastly, the two organizations hold that the failure to take sufficient account of the questions outlined above or to find satisfactory solutions to them, together with the haste that the Community is displaying in the current process of negotiations will inevitably mean that once the EC has been enlarged it will be in permanent need of renegotiation. This will inevitably impair the smooth operation of the common fisheries policy and weaken the confidence of fishermen and their organizations in the Community authorities.

COGECA and EUROPECHE each reserve the right to deliver more detailed opinions on the consequences of enlargement for the various sections of the common fisheries policy according to the development of the negotiations and provided that they are kept duly informed of their progression.

They wish to point out in this regard that they have to date never been officially informed of the situation in

the negotiations and that despite repeated and urgent requests that they be consulted on all aspects of the common fisheries policy it has not been possible to establish any form of dialogue through the official consultative machinery composed of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries and the Joint Committee on Social Problems in Sea Fishing.