



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2013/0388(NLE)

4.3.2014

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol between the European Union and the Union of the Comoros setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement currently in force between the two parties
(16130/2013 – C7-0011/2014 – 2013/0388(NLE))

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On the basis of the powers conferred on it by the Council¹, the European Commission has conducted negotiations with the Union of the Comoros with a view to renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros. At the end of the negotiations a new draft protocol was initialled by the negotiators on 5 July 2013. The new Protocol covers a period of three years from 1 January 2014, the date of provisional application laid down in Article 13.

The main aim of the Protocol to the Agreement is to provide fishing opportunities for European Union vessels in the fishing zone of the Union of the Comoros within the limits of the available surplus. The Commission's negotiating position was based in part on the results of an ex-post evaluation carried out by external experts.

The general aim is to strengthen the cooperation between the European Union and the Union of the Comoros, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in the fishing zone of the Union of the Comoros, in the interests of both parties.

The new Protocol provides for a total financial contribution of EUR 1 800 000 for the whole period. The annual financial contribution of EUR 600 000 is based on: (a) a reference tonnage of 6 000 tonnes, for an amount of EUR 300 000 linked to access and (b) support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Union of the Comoros amounting to EUR 300 000. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy and in particular the needs of the Union of the Comoros in the fight against illegal fishing.

Type of expenditure	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Preservation and management of natural resources	600 000€	600 000€	600 000€	1 800 000€
Total	600 000€	600 000€	600 000€	1 800 000€

It should be borne in mind that there are also private agreements between the Comoros and EU companies, allowing fishing with vessels flying non-EU flags. While not explicitly against the exclusivity clause, it raises questions about unfair competition and value for EU money.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	4.3.2014
Result of final vote	+: 36 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Marta Andreasen, James Elles, Göran Färm, José Manuel Fernandes, Věra Flasarová, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Ivars Godmanis, Ingeborg Gräßle, Lucas Hartong, Jutta Haug, Monika Hohlmeier, Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska, Anne E. Jensen, Ivailo Kalfin, Jan Kozłowski, Alain Lamassoure, George Lyon, Claudio Morganti, Jan Mulder, Nadezhda Neynsky, Andrej Plenković, Dominique Riquet, Alda Sousa, Helga Trüpel, Angelika Werthmann
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Frédéric Daerden, Edit Herczog, Paul Rübig, Peter Šťastný, Georgios Stavrakakis, Nils Torvalds, Catherine Trautmann
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Inés Ayala Sender, Antonio Cancian, María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora