



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Budgets

2014/0115(NLE)

20.11.2014

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 setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe
08585/2014 – C8-0018/2014 – 2014/0115(NLE))

Rapporteur: José Manuel Fernandes

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On the basis of the power conferred on it by the Council, the European Commission has conducted negotiation with the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe with a view to renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement, for a period of 4 years, between the European Union and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe that was expired on 12 May 2014.

That new Protocol was signed in accordance with a Council Decision and will apply on a provisional basis from the date of its signature.

The main purpose of the Protocol to the Agreement is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in São Toméan waters, in compliance with the best scientific opinions available and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus. The Commission's negotiating position was based in part on the results of an ex-post evaluation of the previous Protocol carried out by external experts.

The aim is also to strengthen cooperation between the European Union and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe with a view to establishing a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in São Toméan fishing zone, in the interests of both parties.

The overall financial contribution under the Protocol is EUR 2 805 000 over 4 years.

It comprises:

- an annual amount for access to the EEZ of São Tomé and Príncipe of EUR 385 000 for the first three years and EUR 350 000 for the fourth year, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 7 000 tonnes per year, and
- a specific amount of EUR 325 000 per year for four years to support the implementation of the sectoral fisheries policy of São Tomé and Príncipe (small-scale fishing and the monitoring, control and combating of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing).

Type of expenditure(EUR)	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Preservation and management of natural resources	710 000	710 000	710 000	675 000	2 805 000
Total	710 000	710 000	710 000	675 000	2 805 000

If the overall annual quantity of catches by European Union vessels in São Toméan waters exceeds the annual reference tonnage, the total amount of the annual financial contribution shall be increased by EUR 55 for the first three years and EUR 50 for the fourth year for each additional tonne caught.

However, the total annual amount paid by the European Union shall not be more than twice the amount indicated in the protocol. Where the quantities caught by European Union vessels exceed quantities corresponding to twice the total annual amount, the amount due for the quantity exceeding that limit shall be paid the following year.

This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy and particularly the needs of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe in terms of providing support for small-scale fishing and fighting illegal fishing.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend that Parliament give its consent to the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.11.2014
Result of final vote	+: 18 -: 5 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Jean Arthuis, Richard Ashworth, Jean-Paul Denanot, Gérard Deprez, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Monika Hohlmeier, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Liadh Ní Riada, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Marco Valli, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni
Substitutes present for the final vote	Charles Goerens, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Alfred Sant, Ivan Štefanec, Tomáš Zdechovský