



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Budgets

2014/0238(NLE)

20.1.2015

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 a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Senegal and the Implementation Protocol thereto (12812/14 – C8-0276/2014 – 2014/0238(NLE))

Rapporteur: Indrek Tarand

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On the basis of the power conferred on it by the Council, the European Commission has conducted negotiation on behalf of the European Union, to renewal of the Agreement between the Government of Senegal and the European Economic Community on fishing off the coast of Senegal, which entered into force on 1 June 1981, and a Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution. At the end of the negotiations, a new draft Agreement and Protocol were initialled by the negotiators on 25 April 2014. The new Agreement repeals and replaces the existing Agreement; it covers a period of five years from its entry into force, renewable by tacit agreement.

The aim of the Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in Senegalese waters taking into account available scientific assessments, in particular those of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and, in theory, in accordance with the best available scientific advice and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus. The aim is also to enhance cooperation between the EU and Senegal to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in the Senegalese fishing zones, in the interests of both parties

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the financial statement annexed to the draft Agreement sets out an overall amount of **EUR 9.61 million in commitment and payment appropriations from 2014 to 2018** (including administrative expenses for the management of the Agreement, financed from the envelope of specific programmes).

The annual financial contribution has been set at:

- EUR 1 808 000 for the first year,
- EUR 1 738 000 for the second, third and fourth years,
- EUR 1 668 000 for the fifth year,

based on:

1. a reference tonnage of 14 000 tonnes for tunas and a volume of authorised catches of 2 000 tonnes for black hake, the amounts linked to such access having been set at EUR 1 058 000 for the first year, EUR 988 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and at EUR 918 000 for the fifth year; and
2. support for the development of the sectorial fisheries policy of Senegal amounting to EUR 750 000 per year.

The sectoral support provided by the protocol meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy and in particular the needs of the Republic of Senegal in terms of support for scientific research, for monitoring and fighting against illegal fishing, and for small-scale fishing, including the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems to allow the recovery of juvenile stocks. Nonetheless, more involvement of the local Senegalese sector in the negotiations would have

increased transparency.

On the matter of the fishery for hake, recent scientific advice is somewhat contradictory, but in general suggests that the stock has been over-fished and that there is no, or very little, surplus to be fished by the EU. It is also important to ensure that management of these fisheries is conducted on a regional basis.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend that Parliament give its consent to the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Senegal and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to include in the legislative resolution the following:

- Calls on the Commission to report annually to Parliament and to the Council on the results of the multiannual sectoral programme described in Article 4 of the Protocol, as well as on compliance by the Member States with reporting requirements;
- Calls on the Commission to submit to Parliament and to the Council, before the Protocol expires or before negotiations for its possible replacement begin, an *ex post* evaluation of the Protocol, including a cost-benefit analysis.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.1.2015
Result of final vote	+: 33 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Jean-Paul Denanot, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Monika Hohlmeier, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Ernest Maragall, Clare Moody, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Liadh Ní Riada, Pina Picierno, Patricija Šulin, Paul Tang, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Marco Valli, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni
Substitutes present for the final vote	Tamás Deutsch, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Georgios Kyrtos, Stanisław Ozóg, Andrej Plenković, Alfred Sant, Ivan Štefmarneč