



2015/0224(NLE)

17.3.2016

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 Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto

(13015/2015 – C8-0402/2015 – 2015/0224(NLE))

Rapporteur: Siegfried Mureşan

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Government of Liberia with a view to concluding a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and an Implementation Protocol thereto between the European Union and Liberia. Following these negotiations, a new Agreement and Protocol were initialled on 5 June 2015.

The new Agreement will provide for a framework taking into account the priorities of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension, with a view to establishing a strategic partnership between the European Union and Liberia. The Agreement establishes a Joint Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the performance, interpretation and application of the Agreement. Furthermore, the Joint Committee may approve certain modifications to the Protocol.

The new Protocol will provide a framework for the fishing activities of the European fleet in the Liberian fishing zone and will authorise European vessel owners to apply for fishing licences allowing them to fish in that zone. In addition, the new Protocol enhances cooperation between the EU and the Republic of Liberia, with a view to promoting the development of a sustainable fishing policy. It provides, in particular, for vessels to be monitored via VMS and for the electronic transmission of catch data. The sectoral support available under the Protocol will help the Republic of Liberia with its national fisheries strategy, including the fight against IUU fishing.

The Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of provisional application – i.e. from the date of its signature, in order not to delay the start of fishing operations.

The annual financial contribution has been set at:

- EUR 715 000 for the first year,
- EUR 650 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and
- EUR 585 000 for the fifth year, on the basis of:

(a) a reference tonnage of 6 500 tonnes, for which an amount linked to access has been set at EUR 357 500 for the first year, EUR 325 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and EUR 292 500 for the fifth year; and

(b) support for development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Liberia, amounting to EUR 357 500 for the first year, EUR 325 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and EUR 292 500 for the fifth year. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy and in particular the Republic of Liberia's needs in relation to scientific research, artisanal fisheries as well as fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and the fight against 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 of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	16.3.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 26 - : 2 0 : 3
Members present for the final vote	Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Jean-Paul Denanot, Gérard Deprez, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Esteban González Pons, Monika Hohlmeier, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Ernest Maragall, Siegfried Mureşan, Jan Olbrycht, Urmas Paet, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Paul Tang, Indrek Tarand, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni, Auke Zijlstra, Stanisław Żółtek
Substitutes present for the final vote	Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Nils Torvalds, Marco Valli