



2015/0229(NLE)

16.3.2016

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 Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years

(12773/2015 – C8-0354/2015 – 2015/0229(NLE))

Rapporteur: Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Protocol for the period 2012-14 expired on 15 December 2014. The fishing activities of the European fleet in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's fishing zone have therefore been interrupted pending the signature and provisional application of the new Protocol.

On the basis of an authorisation from Council, the Commission negotiated, on behalf of the EU, the renewal of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Mauritania. At the end of those negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 10 July 2015. The Protocol covers a period of four years from the date of provisional application– i.e. from the date of its signature.

The main aim of the Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in Mauritanian waters taking into account available scientific assessments, in particular those of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus.

The objective is to also enhance cooperation between the European Union and Mauritania, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the fishing zone of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, in the interests of both parties. The sectoral support has been increased since the previous period, in order to help the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to implement its new national sectoral policy for ensuring the sustainable development of fishing activities.

The annual financial contribution has been set at EUR 59 125 000 per year, on the basis of:

- a total allowable catch of 261 500 tonnes for fishing categories 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 and a reference tonnage of 20 000 tonnes for fishing categories 4 and 5 of the Protocol, corresponding to an amount linked to access to EUR 55 000 000 per year, and
- support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania amounting to EUR 4 125 000 per year. This support meets the aims of national fishing policy and in particular the needs of Mauritania as regards supporting scientific and technical cooperation, training, fisheries monitoring, protecting the environment and development infrastructure.

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 the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years.

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, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, 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, Marco Valli, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni, Auke Zijlstra, Stanisław Żółtek
Substitutes present for the final vote	Nils Torvalds