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*Committee on Budgets*

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**2017/0223(NLE)**

23.2.2018

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of a Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

12476/2017 – C8-0445/2017 – 2017/0223(NLE)

Rapporteur: Inese Vaidere

PA\_Leg\_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Government of Mauritius with a view to concluding a new Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius. Following these negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 26 April 2017. The Protocol covers a period of four years from the date of its provisional application, i.e. from the date on which it is signed, as it states in Article 15.

The first Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement set out, for a period of three years, the fishing opportunities granted to Union vessels in the fishing zone under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Mauritius and the financial contribution granted by the European Union. The period of application of that Protocol expired on 27 January 2017.

The main aim of the new Protocol is to provide fishing opportunities for Union vessels in Mauritius waters, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and respecting the recommendations of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), where applicable within the limits of the available surplus. The Commission based its position in part on the results of an evaluation of the previous Protocol (2014-2017) and a forward-looking assessment of whether a new Protocol should be concluded. Both were carried out by external experts. The Protocol will also enable the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius to work more closely on promoting a sustainable fisheries policy, sound exploitation of fisheries resources in Mauritius waters, and support Mauritius's efforts to develop its sustainable ocean economy, in the interests of both parties.

The new Protocol shall provide a total financial contribution of EUR 2 300 000 for the entire period (2017-2021).

This total financial contribution shall comprise:

- an annual amount for access to Mauritius waters of EUR 220 000 equivalent to a reference tonnage of 4000 tonnes per year;
- a specific amount of EUR 220 000 per year for the support and implementation of Mauritius' sectoral fisheries policy; and
- an additional amount of EUR 135 000 to support the development of maritime policy and ocean economy.

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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 Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius.

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| <b>Title</b>                                   | Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius   |
| <b>References</b>                              | 12476/2017 – C8-0445/2017 – COM(2017)0486 – 2017/0223(NLE)   |
| <b>Committee responsible</b>                   | PECH   |
| <b>Opinion by</b><br>Date announced in plenary | BUDG<br>14.12.2017   |
| <b>Rapporteur</b><br>Date appointed            | Inese Vaidere<br>26.9.2017   |
| <b>Date adopted</b>                            | 22.2.2018  |
| <b>Result of final vote</b>                    | +: 27<br>–: 3<br>0: 1  |
| <b>Members present for the final vote</b>      | Nedzhmi Ali, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, André Elissen, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Esteban González Pons, John Howarth, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Siegfried Mureşan, Jan Olbrycht, Urmas Paet, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Jordi Solé, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken, Marco Zanni |
| <b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>  | Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Jean-Paul Denanot, Ivana Maletić, Pavel Poc, Tomáš Zdechovský   |

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

| <b>27</b> | <b>+</b>  |
|-----------|---|
| ALDE      | Nedzhmi Ali, Gérard Deprez, Urmas Paet  |
| ECR       | Zbigniew Kuźmiuk  |
| PPE       | Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, Esteban González Pons, Ivana Maletić, Siegfried Mureşan, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Patricija Šulin, Inese Vaidere, Tomáš Zdechovský |
| S&D       | Jean-Paul Denanot, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, John Howarth, Vladimír Maňka, Pavel Poc, Manuel dos Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken                                |
| VERTS/ALE | Jordi Solé, Indrek Tarand   |

| <b>3</b> | <b>-</b>              |
|----------|-----------------------|
| ENF      | André Elissen         |
| GUE/NGL  | Xabier Benito Ziluaga |
| NI       | Eleftherios Synadinos |

| <b>1</b> | <b>0</b>    |
|----------|-------------|
| ENF      | Marco Zanni |

### Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention