



2015/0224(NLE)

17.3.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

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: Maria Heubuch

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

This new agreement deals only with tuna. For a total of EUR 3,25 million over five years, EU vessels may fish 6.500 tonnes of tuna per year. The financial contribution shall be split equally between an amount for access to the fisheries resources and an amount for support of the sectoral fisheries policy of Liberia. Other elements from the reform are also included, such as the exclusivity clause, a human rights clause and the principle whereby no other distant water nation should receive more favourable conditions than the EU.

Regarding transparency, a key element for promoting sustainable fisheries, a provision similar, though not as detailed, to the one contained in the latest agreement with Mauritania, is included, which requires the publication of any agreement (public or private) allowing foreign-flagged vessels access to Liberian waters. For several years, Liberia has been publishing lists of licensed vessels. Attention needs to be paid to ensure that this information is both complete and reliable. At the time when the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is just getting underway, these provisions on transparency are very welcome.

In Liberia, the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security is vital but constrained by the lack of infrastructures: Liberia is a net importer of fish for domestic consumption, particularly small pelagics. The EU sectoral support should treat this as a priority, including the support for the participative management plan for small pelagics being developed by Liberia.

Liberian stakeholders were not consulted during the preparation of the evaluation prior to the negotiations, and this needs to be rectified in the future.

The Committee on Development 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 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	15.3.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 19 - : 1 0 : 4
Members present for the final vote	Louis Aliot, Nicolas Bay, Ignazio Corrao, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Nathan Gill, Maria Heubuch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Maurice Ponga, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Pedro Silva Pereira, Eleni Theodorou, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta
Substitutes present for the final vote	Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Paul Rübig, Jan Zahradil, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Michèle Rivasi, Estefanía Torres Martínez