



2015/0152(NLE)

18.2.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand (11634/2015 – C8-0377/2015 – 2015/0152(NLE))

Rapporteur: Stelios Kouloglou

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Greenland is one of the 26 Overseas Countries and Territories covered by Part IV of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Its economy is highly dependent on the fisheries sector, which is the second largest in Greenland.

The implications of societal development for climate, environment and nature, since Arctic areas are highly vulnerable and unique as regards flora and fauna, have to be taken into account. Therefore, the fishing opportunities have to be in line with relevant conservation and management measures.

In addition, this Protocol must be compliant with the Arctic Fisheries Declaration signed in Oslo on 16 July 2015, which restricts commercial fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean in order to guarantee the preservation of the fragile ecosystem of the Arctic.

This new Protocol, covering a period of five years from the date of its signature, provides for a financial contribution of EUR 17.799.978 per year. The Protocol should strengthen the cooperation between the European Union and Greenland and promote the development of a sustainable fisheries policy and a responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in Greenland's fishing zone. It is a multi-species agreement that foresees fishing opportunities for cod, pelagic redfish, demersal redfish, halibut, northern prawn, capelin and grenadier.

Your rapporteur is of the view that sustainable fishing practices have to be promoted to safeguard long-term productivity for Greenland's local fisheries and support Greenland's fisheries policy. In this respect, fishing licences must be made more strictly conditional on the use of local labour and local firms. This would maximise value for the Greenlandic society.

The financial contribution linked to Fisheries Partnership Agreement has to support sustainability of Greenland's fisheries sector and support Greenland by developing and increasing local employment opportunities in the local fisheries sector.

The Committee on Development 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 the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	17.2.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 26 - : 1 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Louis Aliot, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Ignazio Corrao, Nirj Deva, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Nathan Gill, Charles Goerens, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Heidi Hautala, Maria Heubuch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Stelios Kouloglou, Arne Lietz, Linda McAvan, Maurice Ponga, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Pedro Silva Pereira, Davor Ivo Stier, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Rainer Wieland, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Jan Zahradil, Joachim Zeller