



24.3.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, EU No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No 1307/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (COM(2016)0605 – C8-0372/2016 – 2016/0282(COD))

Rapporteur: Carlos Iturgaiz

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Fisheries:

- welcomes the Commission proposal, submitted on 14 September 2016, for a regulation introducing a new financial regulation of the EU and amending numerous sectoral rules, particularly the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (common and general provisions of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds), including the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF));
- sees as positive proposals of the Commission to simplify the procedures for the recipients of EU funds, to reduce to one the existing multiple layers of audits, to apply only one set of rules to hybrid actions, to introduce flexibility in budget management, to focus on results and to streamline reporting, to simplify EU administration and to provide possibility for citizen engagement;
- is concerned, however, by the possibility that under the new rules it would be possible to use the EMFF to finance structural reforms not related to the fisheries policy;
- stresses the need to prevent the Member States from reallocating funds under the EMFF to other uses;
- emphasizes the importance that any EMFF contribution be strictly earmarked for implementation of structural reforms relating to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, including control and collection of scientific data;
- stresses the necessity to further reinforce the role of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the EMFF;
- regrets the fact that for such a complex proposal no impact assessment has been carried out;
- is of the opinion that a public consultation on this revision of the Financial Regulation was too brief and not exhaustive and inclusive enough;
- considers it very unfortunate that it cannot give its opinion and table amendments to the part of the legislative proposal that potentially concerns it the most, namely Article 265 of the Commission proposal COM(2016)605. This was imposed by the Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Conference of Committee Chairs, that allowed the Committee on Fisheries only to give its opinion to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control cooperating under the Rule 55, while the above-mentioned Article 265 is an exclusive competence of the Committee on Regional Development (associated to BUDG/CONT under the Rule 54). This implies that Members of the Committee on Fisheries will only be able to table amendments to this part individually to the Committee on Regional Development under the Rule 208, and not on behalf of the Committee on Fisheries.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committees responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1 a) In order to ensure an appropriate debate between Parliament and the Council, more adequate deadlines should have been allowed for discussion of the Commission's proposal.

Justification

The European Parliament regrets that deadlines foreseen for this proposal's debate would not take into account in an appropriate way co-legislator's opinions.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 178 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(178 a) The financial resources of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund should be strictly earmarked to support the Common Fisheries Policy for the conservation of marine biological resources, for the management of fisheries and fleets exploiting those resources, for fresh water biological resources and aquaculture, as well as for the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 178 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(178 b) The transfer of ESI Funds allocations to instruments established under the Financial Regulation or under sector specific Regulations shall never, in any case, jeopardise the adequate implementation of sectorial policies by promoting the use of financial instruments.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Article 62 – paragraph 8 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

In order to promote best practices in the implementation of the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the EAGF and the European Fisheries Fund, the Commission may, for information purposes, make available a methodological guide setting out its own control strategy and approach, including checklists, and best practice examples to bodies responsible for management and control activities. That guide shall be updated whenever necessary.

In order to promote best practices in the implementation of the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the EAGF and the European Fisheries Fund, the Commission may, for information purposes, make available a methodological guide setting out its own control strategy and approach, including checklists, and best practice examples to bodies responsible for management and control activities. That guide shall be updated whenever necessary.

The delivery of the national and sub-national programmes requires a comprehensive national and sub-national Management and Control System (MCS) of all financial commitments, based on a close collaboration between the national and any sub-national management authority and the Commission. The Commission shall report annually and publish interim evaluations.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Article 62 – paragraph 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

8 a. In order for the specific and appropriate policy and measures to be determined, the Commission shall promote the preparation of regional operational programmes in accordance with the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity and taking into account regional competences.

Justification

Regions should be able to exercise their right to take part in the decision making process on matters within their competences. Accordingly, regions with competences in the fisheries sector should be able to prepare and manage their regional operational programmes.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union		
References	COM(2016)0605 – C8-0372/2016 – 2016/0282(COD)		
Committees responsible Date announced in plenary	BUDG 21.11.2016	CONT 21.11.2016	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	PECH 21.11.2016		
Rapporteur Date appointed	Carlos Iturgaiz 26.10.2016		
Rule 55 – Joint committee procedure Date announced in plenary	19.1.2017		
Discussed in committee	10.11.2016	26.1.2017	28.2.2017
Date adopted	22.3.2017		
Result of final vote	+: –: 0:	25 2 0	
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Renata Briano, Alain Cadec, David Coburn, Richard Corbett, Diane Dodds, Linnéa Engström, João Ferreira, Mike Hookem, Ian Hudghton, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Norica Nicolai, Ulrike Rodust, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen, Jarosław Wałęsa		
Substitutes present for the final vote	Ole Christensen, Norbert Erdős, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling		
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Helmut Scholz		