



12.7.2019

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets

on  
the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020  
(2019/2028(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Chris Davies

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that appropriate financial measures are needed to guarantee a viable fisheries sector, points out that the objectives of the CFP can only be achieved if there is a sufficient budget; points out that that budget is concentrated in Section III and Title 11, 'Maritime Affairs and Fisheries'; recalls that the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the compulsory contributions to regional fisheries management organisations and sustainable fisheries agreements make up most of the budget;
2. Considers that important efforts have been made to increase sound scientific knowledge of marine biological resources. Although knowledge has improved, we are still far from optimum in order to provide for an appropriate assessment; considers that Union funds must therefore be increased for both international and Member States' scientific research organisations to further improve the evaluation of stocks.
3. Points out that more than half of the Union's supply of fisheries products come from international waters and the exclusive economic zones of third countries; considers that adequate and reliable budgetary provisions must be calculated in the annual budget for 2020 in order to comply with the international fisheries agreement obligations and developing the Union's participation in regional fisheries management organisations.
4. Recalls that aquaculture is becoming an important element in the objective to cope with increasing consumption of fisheries products in the Union.
5. Highlights that special importance should be granted in the 2020 budget to the financial resources designated to help the fleet to a smooth implementation of the landing obligation schemes.
6. Reiterates the importance of coastal and small artisanal fleet emphasises that sector represents nearly 75 % of all fishing vessels registered in the Union and nearly half of all employment in the fisheries sector; notes that operators from small-scale coastal fisheries are dependent on healthy fish stocks for their main source of income.
7. Calls on the Commission and Member States to help communities that depend on fisheries to diversify their economies into other maritime activities such as tourism, and help them to add more value to their fishing activities.
8. Remarks that the adoption of the current multiannual plans and the implementation of new technical measures to contribute to achieving fishing at sustainable levels requires a robust control policy supported by adequate funds.
9. Highlights that the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) plays a fundamental role in coordinating and implementing the CFP; points out that this should be reflected in its budget.
10. Draws attention to the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the Union which will

have an impact on the implementation of the 2014-2020 EMFF; points out that “Brexit” means that the utmost importance needs to be given to the establishment of a new financial budgetary framework for the period 2021-2027; considers that a higher degree of additional flexibility of the Union budget is necessary to cope with the new situation.

11. Highlights that, six years after the adoption of the current Fund, the level of implementation of the 2014-2020 EMFF is very low and that Commission and Member States must speed up the management and control processes and alleviate the administrative burdens to ensure appropriate and timely benefits to the sector.