



2018/0356 M (NLE)

17.10.2019

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on International Trade

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (2018/0356 M (NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pietro Bartolo

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- having regard to Article 13.9 of the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (FTA),
 - having regard to the conclusions following its fact-finding mission to Viet Nam (28 October to 1 November 2018) and the Commission's evaluation of May 2018 on the country's progress in tackling illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU) following the notification by the Commission of a 'yellow card' on 23 October 2017,
- A.
- whereas the EU-Viet Nam FTA recognises the importance of ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of living marine resources and ecosystems together with the promotion of sustainable aquaculture and provides for cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing under Article 13.9;
 1. Appreciates the adoption by the Vietnamese Government of a new framework law for the fisheries sector and the setup of coordinated monitoring, control and enforcement structures committed to effectively tackling and deterring IUU fishing;
 2. Underlines the huge challenges still facing the Vietnamese authorities with regard to the overcapacity of its highly fragmented fishing fleet and the overexploitation of marine resources;
 3. Encourages the Vietnamese authorities to closely monitor the country's fishing fleet and to implement measures to ensure the full traceability of fisheries products destined for export to the EU market;
 4. Is of the opinion that preferential tariffs should be accompanied by monitoring of the implementation and review of the commitments made under Article 13.9 of the EU-Viet Nam FTA;
 5. Recalls that the 'yellow card' notification should be seen as a means to encourage the Vietnamese authorities to persevere in their efforts to tackle IUU fishing activities; believes that further extension of the 'yellow card' should be accompanied by clear operational targets and timelines;
 6. Supports Viet Nam's application for full membership of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), where the EU and Viet Nam would be able to deepen their cooperation and develop more ambitious measures to tackle IUU fishing;
 7. Calls on the Commission to make use of all the tools at its disposal, including the 'red card', should Viet Nam fail to fulfil the conditions for sustainable fisheries.