



21 June 2006

# 1

❖ ACP- EU call for sustainable fishing

# ***ACP-EU call for sustainable fishing***

Report by Emanuel Jardim **FERNANDES** (PES, Portugal) and Joses Wawari **SANGA** (Solomon Islands) on fisheries and its social and environmental aspects in developing countries

Debate : 21.06.2006

Vote : 22.06.2006

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly debated the role of fisheries and its social and environmental aspects in developing countries during its plenary session in Vienna. The report, to be adopted on 22 June 2006, calls for action to encourage the participation of local community organisations based on traditional forms of association in all policy setting and decision making related to fisheries and fish related activities.

Emanuel Jardim **FERNANDES** (PES, Portugal) co-rapporteur on the role of fisheries and its social and environmental aspects in developing countries, said that fishing was a vital source of jobs and income and sometimes it was the ACP countries' principal export to the EU. In particular many women, he said, were employed in the fishing industry. He stressed the importance of sustainable development saying that this should be the objective of all fishing agreements. International fishing agreements, he said, should also be assessed periodically as to their effectiveness in eradicating poverty. The principles of good governance should also be applied to the fishing industry.

Joses Wawari **SANGA** (MP, Solomon Islands), co-rapporteur, also underlined the important role of fishing for the livelihoods of many people in ACP countries. He too warned of over-exploitation of fisheries resources. Mr Sanga was concerned about small island states and their ability to manage their 200 mile fishing Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). He said that "it is like a toddler trying to fend for himself." As to the social aspects of fishing, he said that fishermen were often mistreated, families had to suffer the absence of fathers and fishing vessels were often used for trafficking. Finally, Mr Sanga stressed the importance of access to micro credit facilities for the fishing industry and the need to protect the ecosystem through giving incentives to fishermen.

In the report, delegates will call on the ACP-EU cooperation to strengthen the dialogue on regional, national and local levels between the industrial and the artisanal fisheries sector with a view to promoting sustainable development of the fishery resources. Delegates will call for programmes to meet the special requirements of developing countries in combating IUU fishing and, in particular, the need to strengthen their capacity for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance.

The House will call for EU's special support under the EU development aid for inhabitants of remote ACP member countries of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans that are heavily dependent on subsistence fisheries for income generation, so to improve their families' health, balanced diet and children's education, especially for girls.

Delegates will call for the implementation of local and regional coherent fisheries aimed micro credit programmes. The report recognizes the important role micro credit plays as a decentralised cooperation tool.

The report urges a ban in all ACP and EU waters and by any fishing boat from those countries of any fishing of endangered species (fish or sea mammal) as specified by CITES and a total ban on the practice of shark finning, except where this is a by-product of fishing shark for meat.

Finally, delegates will call on the EU to continue with impact assessment studies concerning the sustainable character of the Fishing Partnership Agreements (FPAs) and to allocate the necessary resources for this purpose.

The resolution will be adopted by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly on Thursday 22 June 2006.

Further information:

Richard Freedman

Press Officer

Austria Center, Vienna

Tel. +43.1.26069.2051/2052

Mob. +32.498.98.3239

**e-mail :** [rfreedman@europarl.eu.int](mailto:rfreedman@europarl.eu.int)