



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2009/0038(CNS)

2.9.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea
(COM(2009)0120 – C7-0003/2009 – 2009/0038(CNS))

Rapporteur: Helga Trüpel

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Community and the Republic of Guinea have negotiated a Fisheries Partnership Agreement, which provides Community fishermen with fishing opportunities in Guinea's fishing zone. The agreement, accompanied by a Protocol and annexes, is valid for a period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2012. It replaces an existing agreement, which dates back to 1983. The aim of the agreement is to promote responsible and sustainable fisheries in non-EU countries.

Compared to the existing agreement and protocol, the new agreement allows fewer vessels to the Guinean waters.

	Current protocol 1 Jan 2004 - 31 Dec 2008	New protocol 1 Jan 2009 - 31 Dec 2012
Seiners	34 (ES, FR)	28 (ES, FR, IT)
Surface longliners	9 (ES, PT)	
Pole-and-line vessels	14 (ES, FR)	12 (ES, FR)

From the second year of application of the Protocol and following a joint evaluation of the state of shrimp stocks and the management of Guinean fisheries, a limited amount of fishing opportunities for shrimp trawlers can be granted if certain conditions are fulfilled.

The EU contribution will consist of the following elements:

- an annual contribution of EUR 325.000 for the fishing rights of 5.000 tonnes per year;
- an amount of EUR 125.000 for the support and implementation of Guinea's sectoral fisheries policy;
- possible additional fishing opportunities, which need to be agreed between the Community and Guinea, will be compensated up to EUR 300.000 per year;
- a specific contribution of EUR 600.000 (1st year; EUR 400.000 for the 2nd year and EUR 300.000 for the subsequent years) to reinforce the monitoring, control and surveillance system in Guinea's fishing zones and to finance an acquisition of a satellite surveillance system by June 2010.

The EU contribution will total EUR 1.050.000 for the first year, EUR 850.000 for the second and EUR 750.000 for the subsequent years, possibly increasing by up to EUR 300.000 if shrimp fishing is allowed. The size and value of the Community fishing rights will thus be considerably smaller than during the previous period, where the EU contribution was EUR 3.400.000 per year.

There is no upper limit for additional catches of tuna by Community vessels. Each additional tonne will cost EUR 65. Where the quantity caught by Community vessels exceed the

quantity corresponding to double the total annual amount, the amount exceeding that limit will be paid only the following year.

In 2008, the budget for the fisheries agreement with Guinea was fully implemented.

The previous protocols have supposedly dedicated considerable amounts of money to improving the sustainability of fishing in Guinea, especially increasing the capacity for fisheries surveillance. The evaluation of the agreement notes that despite investing millions of euros, there is still considerable illegal fishing in Guinean waters. Such illegal fishing threatens both the sustainability of Guinean fish stocks and the local communities dependent upon them, as well as the EU's investment. In this context, it should be noted that Transparency International places Guinea at position 173 out of 180 countries. The Commission needs to verify to what extent the monies were spent as agreed with Guinea.

Correct reporting of catches is an essential element of fisheries partnership agreement. Your draftsman considers therefore appropriate to table similar amendments that the Budget Committee has adopted to several other proposals on fisheries partnership agreements.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation **Article 3 - paragraph 1 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Commission shall evaluate each year whether Member States whose vessels operate under the Protocol to the Agreement have complied with reporting requirements. Where this is not the case, the Commission shall refuse their requests for fishing licences for the following year.

Justification

Vessels that do not comply with the most basic requirement, reporting what they catch, should not benefit from financial support from the EU.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3a

The Commission shall report annually to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of the multiannual sectoral programme described in Article 7 of the Protocol as well as on compliance by the Member States with reporting requirements.

Justification

In order to evaluate whether the compensation paid by the EU is properly accounted for and does in fact promote the sustainable use of fishery resources in Guinea, the Commission should report annually to Parliament.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 3b

Before expiry of the Protocol or the beginning of negotiations for its possible replacement, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council an ex-post evaluation of the Protocol, including a cost-benefit analysis.

Justification

An evaluation of the current protocol is necessary before new negotiations begin in order to know what changes, if any, should be included in any possible renewal.

PROCEDURE

Title	Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EC and Guinea
References	COM(2009)0120 – C7-0003/2009 – 2009/0038(CNS)
Committee responsible	PECH
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 14.7.2009
Rapporteur Date appointed	Helga Trüpel 21.7.2009
Discussed in committee	2.9.2009
Date adopted	2.9.2009
Result of final vote	+: 32 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Damien Abad, Francesca Balzani, Reimer Böge, Giovanni Collino, Andrea Cozzolino, Göran Färm, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Jens Geier, Ivars Godmanis, Estelle Grelier, Carl Haglund, Jutta Haug, Jiří Havel, Monika Hohlmeier, Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska, Ivaylo Kalfin, Sergej Kozlík, Alain Lamassoure, Janusz Lewandowski, Vladimír Maňka, Barbara Matera, Vladimír Remek, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Daniël van der Stoep, Angelika Werthmann, Jacek Włosowicz
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Frederic Daerden, Peter Šťastný