



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Development*

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**2010/0290(NLE)**

16.12.2010

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Federated States of Micronesia  
(COM(2010)0572 – C7-0000/2010 – 2010/0290(NLE))

Rapporteur: Nirj Deva

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Fisheries Agreement between the European Community and the Federated States of Micronesia expired on 25 February 2010. The new Protocol already provisionally applied pending the European Parliament's consent procedure will have a validity of 5 years.

According to Article 43, paragraph 2 and Article 218, paragraph 6(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union the European Parliament can either consent or decline to consent. The possibility to refuse the consent must be seen as a last resort tool linked to the evidence that the scope of the agreement is not duly respected.

According to the draft agreement the Parties commit to a framework of partnership, facilitating the development of a sustainable fishing policy and responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the Micronesian Islands fishing area, in the interests of both Parties.

The two Parties have agreed to cooperate with a view to implementing FSM sectoral fisheries policy and to that end shall continue the policy dialogue on the relevant programming.

**The Financial Contribution** amounts to **EUR 559,000** per annum for the whole period, i.e. for five years from the date of entry into force of this Protocol. This amount corresponds to:

- EUR 408,200 per year equivalent to an annual reference tonnage of 8,000 tonnes per year, and
- EUR 150,800 per year, corresponding to the additional envelop paid by the EU to support FSM fisheries policy.

This means that an average of 69 EUR per tonne of catch is paid to the Federated States of Micronesia simply for granting European vessels' access to the fishery resources of FSM.

Your Rapporteur is not convinced that this money will effectively go towards the promotion of responsible and sustainable exploitation of the sea resources or that it will even be earmarked for development, i.e. that it is spent in favour of fishing communities, to improve living conditions, to ensure training, safety at sea and to produce new local jobs.

Therefore, before assenting to the agreement, the following issues should be taken into account:

1. The transparency of the procedures in identifying the total catches should be ameliorated.
2. The integrity of the whole mechanism, vis á vis corruption problems, should be without doubt;
3. The accountability of the local Government should be reinforced; the local Government must also guarantee the improvement of living conditions for local fishermen.
4. Minimum standards and conditions agreed at a regional level must be respected.

5. Regular reports monitoring the implementation of the agreement should be brought to the attention of the European Union in order to promote transparency.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament consents to the conclusion of the Protocol provided that all the following issues are duly taken into account during the implementation of the Agreement:

- (a) the transparency of the procedures in identifying the total catches should be ameliorated;
- (b) the integrity of the whole mechanism, in terms of corruption problems, should be beyond doubt;
- (c) the accountability of the local Government should be reinforced; and the local Government must also guarantee the improvement of living conditions for local fishermen;
- (d) minimum standards and conditions agreed at a regional level must be respected;
- (e) regular reports monitoring the implementation of the Agreement should be brought to the attention of the European Union in order to promote transparency.