



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Fisheries

2012/2092(BUD)

21.6.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets

on the General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 – all sections
(2012/2092(BUD))

Rapporteur: Crescenzo Rivellini

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that, in the form proposed by the Commission, the Draft Budget is not entirely sufficient to cover the financial needs of all sectors of fisheries and maritime affairs, despite the importance of these activities for regional balance, the conservation of marine ecosystems and economic issues as identified by the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy;
2. Notes that the Draft Budget does not take account of the accession of Croatia and that it will then be essential to rectify the budget in sufficient time to ensure an adequate level of financing for this coastal country;
3. Considers it extremely damaging in the short and medium term to reduce significantly commitment appropriations for Title 11 (-2.7% if the reserves are excluded), and recalls that the common fisheries policy is currently being reformed and that, in order for the reform to be a success, ample funding will need to be provided so as to ensure the industry's sustainability and supplies of fisheries and aquaculture products throughout the Union;
4. Calls for total commitment appropriations to be maintained at the levels of the 2012 budget in order to preserve the sustainability of projects in the sector launched by the Commission and, at the same time, to control spending in the context of budgetary austerity;
5. Considers the proposal to increase total payment appropriations by 3.1% to be the consequence anticipated at the end of the multiannual budget programming period and in the light of the commitments entered into in previous years, particularly in relation to the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), and that it should not be regarded as an attempt by the Commission to support this sector;
6. Considers it vital to set priorities in the policies on fisheries and maritime affairs and, first of all, with regard to the appropriations for the EFF (11 06), control and enforcement of the common fisheries policy and more particularly concerning appropriations for the European Fisheries Control Agency (11 08 05) and those for conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources (11 07);
7. Deplores the cut of more than 10% in the appropriations for the chapter on fisheries markets (11 02) and notes that this cut is motivated by the implementation rate of the 2011 budget and the current economic context;
8. Observes that the funds available for the external dimension of the common fisheries policy (11 03) are reduced excessively, as it is assumed that the next international fisheries agreements will be more costly because of the scarcity of resources and the establishment of sectoral support;

9. Considers the absence of commitment appropriations for the integrated maritime policy (11 09) to be unacceptable, and takes the view that this will seriously jeopardise its future implementation;
10. Rejects categorically the cuts in appropriations for the European Fisheries Control Agency and calls on the Council, on the contrary, to support by means of a further increase in appropriations the efforts made by this agency in the interests of the Union;
11. Calls on the Council to revise its position on the overall level of appropriations for Title 11, in order to maintain commitment appropriations at the 2012 level and provide for payments to cover actions already planned, thus supporting the priorities set for maritime affairs and fisheries.