



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Fisheries

2012/2063(INI)

21.6.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Development

on the EU 2011 Report on Policy Coherence for Development
(2012/2063(INI))

Rapporteur: João Ferreira

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Regrets that a substantial proportion of the objectives of the Fisheries Partnership Agreements have not been achieved; regrets in particular the poor results attained in the fields of scientific and technological cooperation and support for the sustainable development of the fishing industry (and allied industries) in developing countries;
2. Notes that, in general, Fisheries Partnership Agreements have basically served to transfer funds to developing countries in exchange for exploitation of their fisheries resources; deplores this restrictive vision of the Agreements, which is contrary to their spirit and stated objectives;
3. Stresses that Fisheries Partnership Agreements must promote, in the medium term, the exploitation by developing countries of their own resources, for purposes both of domestic consumption and of export, thus increasing the amount of wealth generated and kept in the countries concerned;
4. Advocates the joint formulation of models with objectives, actions and indicators with the aim of monitoring the use of the funds more effectively in a spirit of partnership; stresses that this monitoring must include the adoption of corrective procedures, to be agreed with the third country, whenever a deviation from the objectives is observed;
5. Draws attention to the importance of the existence of up-to-date scientific data on fish stocks and on total fishing effort in each country's waters; considers that scientific assessment should precede the signature of agreements or at least that the agreements should contribute to the examination of data;
6. Draws attention to the problem of illegal, unregistered and undeclared (IUU) fishing; recalls that many vessels do not duly report their catches and are not inspected, the data supplied by vessels are not checked and the species caught are not clearly identified; considers that the EU can and must make a more effective contribution towards overcoming these problems;
7. Advocates better linkage of Fisheries Partnership Agreements to existing development-policy instruments, particularly the EDF, and to conditions relating to access to EU markets for developing countries.