

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Fisheries

2007/2183(INI)

27.3.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Development

on policy coherence for development and the effects of the EU's exploitation of certain biological natural resources on development in West Africa
(2007/2183(INI))

Draftswoman (*): Carmen Fraga Estévez

(*) Procedure with associated committees – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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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. Expresses satisfaction that seven countries of West Africa have signed fisheries agreements with the European Union under the new formula of partnership agreements in which, in addition to the initial objective of protecting the interests of the Community fleet, clauses are included by means of which the third country must establish plans that will guarantee the sustainable exploitation of its fishery resources;
2. Notes with satisfaction, and encourages, the progress made in this field, but continues to express its concern at the slowness and reluctance with which some countries in the region are becoming involved in the protection of their own resources; regrets that, despite the efforts made by the EU within the framework of the agreements, the sustainability of natural biological resources, including fishery resources, and the benefits of sustainable exploitation still do not represent a priority for these countries but often remain subordinate to other political and economic interests;
3. Is obliged to recognise that, even though the financial contributions under the fisheries agreements have come to represent a substantial share of the total budgets of some third countries, to which must be added the investment made by shipowners and the cooperation, including financial cooperation, provided by the Member States on a bilateral basis, cooperation for sustainable development cannot come from the common fisheries policy alone and the remaining Community policies also need to be brought into play, particularly development cooperation policy, in order to bring about political and socio-economic conditions that will enable those countries to redirect administrative and financial efforts so that they can fully and sustainably benefit from the potential offered by their natural biological resources;
4. Believes that, as regards fishery resources in particular, the following aspects need to be strengthened as a priority:
 - regular assessment of fishery resources through research campaigns carried out using oceanographic vessels with Community researchers and researchers from the third country concerned, covering the fishery resources available in each of the EEZs of countries with which fisheries partnership agreements have been signed;
 - improved infrastructure on land, both port infrastructure and infrastructure for supplies and transport, in order to facilitate the entry of vessels from the Community and from other countries for repair, disembarkation, transshipment, etc, which will offer additional benefits for third countries;
 - adaptation of hygiene and health rules, since most of these countries have serious shortcomings in this area which in some cases prevent them from benefiting from the preferential access to the Community market that their exports could enjoy;
 - monitoring and surveillance services, since these countries lack the necessary

technical and human resources to carry out these tasks, by setting up monitoring centres, training inspectors or acquiring patrol vessels and airborne resources;

- creation of a legal framework that will guarantee protection for current and potential Community investment stemming chiefly from the creation of joint ventures, which presently encounter too many obstacles to investment in the third country, mainly owing to the loss of control over the business and legal uncertainty in almost all countries in the region;
- introduction of sustainable fisheries management plans that will regulate the activities of local sectors, restricting the widespread and biologically unsustainable practice of free access.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.3.2008
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Alfonso Andria, Stavros Arnautakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Iles Braghetto, Niels Busk, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Paulo Casaca, Zdzisław Kazimierz Chmielewski, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Ioannis Gklavakis, Alfred Gomolka, Ian Hudghton, Heinz Kindermann, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Seán Ó Neachtain, Struan Stevenson, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Cornelis Visser
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Ole Christensen, Constantin Dumitriu, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Thomas Wise
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Francesco Ferrari