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Committee on Development

2014/0238(NLE)

18.11.2014

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Senegal and the Implementation Protocol thereto (COM(2014)0518 – C8-0000/2014 – 2014/0238(NLE))

Rapporteur: Norbert Neuser

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

This Agreement and Protocol have to comply with the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) regulation which, for SFPAs, puts the emphasis on sustainable fisheries and good governance, and recognises the importance of policy coherence between the CFP and EU development cooperation objectives.

The fact that the Protocol does not provide access to sardinella, - the 'fish of the poor' - is most welcome. This overexploited resource is shared between Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Guinea Bissau, and the EU should provide support, including through the EDF, to promote regional management of sardinella, giving priority to those who fish most sustainably, and who contribute to food security.

Regarding access to hake, for which the state of stocks is uncertain and possibly over-exploited, the precautionary approach has to be followed. It will be of paramount importance to monitor the activities of EU trawlers very closely in order to ensure they do not impact negatively on the local fishing sector. It is equally important to make sure Member States whose vessels operate under the Protocol meet their annual reporting requirements.

Good governance requires that transparency and participation of stakeholders are guaranteed during the whole duration of the Protocol. This could be facilitated through EU-Senegal SFPAs joint committee reports being made public, and through the participation of the European Parliament and stakeholders - including fishing communities representatives - in the work of the joint committee.

Your rapporteur welcomes the support of EUR 750 000 per year for the development of Senegal's fisheries sector. This support should meet Senegal's needs of support for scientific research, for monitoring and fighting against illegal fishing, and for small-scale fishing, including the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems to allow the recovery of juvenile stocks.

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend that Parliament give its consent to the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Senegal and the Implementation Protocol thereto.