

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Development

2005/0249(CNS)

22.3.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the Protocol setting out, for the period 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe (COM(2005)0630 – C6-0045/2006 – 2005/0249(CNS))

Draftswoman: Marie-Arlette Carlotti

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

All fisheries agreements signed by the European Union with third countries must follow the integrated framework for fisheries partnership agreements adopted by the Commission in 2002, on which Parliament delivered an opinion in October 2003. Even if the present case involves the extension of a fisheries agreement signed before the framework agreement came into force, the philosophy behind the new type of agreements should be taken into account by the Commission wherever possible.

The Union's development cooperation policy and the common fisheries policy (CFP) must be consistent, complementary and coordinated, contributing together to poverty reduction and to sustainable development.

The EU has committed itself to ensuring the sustainable character of fisheries worldwide, as defined at the Johannesburg summit, by maintaining or restoring stock levels.

The EU has signed the FAO 'Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries'.

The EU presence in distant fishing grounds is a legitimate objective and the Union's fisheries interests should be protected, whilst at the same time focusing on the development of the nations with which agreements are signed.

It was in this spirit that the fisheries agreement with São Tomé e Príncipe was signed in 2002, covering the period 2002-2005. The protocol expired on 31 May 2005 and was extended in the form of an exchange of letters until 31 May 2006.

The protocol grants fishing opportunities for tuna seiners from Spain and France, pole-and-line tuna vessels from Portugal and surface longliners from Spain and Portugal.

The financial contribution has been set at EUR 637 500 for the year and covers a total of 8500 tonnes of tuna.

The European Union is also providing EUR 50 000 to fund an assessment study on deep-water crab stocks.

We advocate targeted measures to finance local infrastructure projects for fish processing and marketing, which will enable coastal communities to progress beyond subsistence fishing.

Parliament has been consulted at a time when the extension to the agreement is coming to an end. The Committee on Development will vote on its opinion in March, and the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, will hold its vote the following month. This means that Parliament's opinion will not reach the Commission until one month before the end of the extension, in May 2006.

Parliament cannot allow its powers to be openly flouted without protest.

Our Institution should be consulted on the negotiating mandate given to the Commission by

the Council, and the Commission should keep it informed of the progress of the negotiations. Any delay in the consultation process should be explained and justified.

Parliament cannot accept the present situation with regard to fisheries agreements with third countries. Consulting Parliament must be a meaningful exercise, and the procedure must be carried out in such a way that its powers are respected.

A dialogue must be opened up between the competent committees of the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council with the aim of removing the stumbling blocks to the smooth running of the consultation procedure for fisheries agreements.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 2 a (new)

(2a) The Community financial contribution should also be used for the development of coastal communities living on fisheries and the creation of small local fish-canning and processing firms.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the Protocol setting out, for the period 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe
References	COM(2005)0630 – C6-0045/2006 – 2005/0249(CNS)
Committee responsible	PECH
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 16.2.2006
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Marie-Arlette Carlotti 25.1.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	13.3.2006 21.3.2006
Date adopted	21.3.2006
Result of final vote	+: 23 –: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrietus van den Berg, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Thierry Cornillet, Nirj Deva, Fernando Fernández Martín, Michael Gahler, Hélène Goudin, Filip Andrzej Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Maria Martens, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, Toomas Savi, Pierre Schapira, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Mauro Zani
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Manolis Mavrommatis, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	