



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Fisheries*

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**2010/2001(BUD)**

2.9.2010

## OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets

on Parliament's position on the 2011 draft budget as modified by the Council -  
Section III - Commission  
(2010/2001(BUD))

Rapporteur for the opinion: Ulrike Rodust

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

In 2011, Parliament's work will focus on discussing the forthcoming proposals for reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP), including reform of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). Bringing funding allocation into line with the likely shifts in emphasis as a result of the reform seems appropriate; it must also be factored in to discussions on the next multiannual financial framework. Expiry of the preparatory action on maritime policy means that a fresh legal basis must be found in order to fund this new policy. At the same time, action must be taken to prevent the CFP from suffering as a result.

The 2011 budget is characterised by continuity and by the constraints arising under the multiannual financial framework. For the EFF, commitment and payment appropriations of EUR 658 million and EUR 488 million respectively are earmarked (2.2% and 1.5% more, respectively, than for 2010). Appropriations earmarked for the CFP have been cut by some EUR 15 million (i.e. 5.5%). This is primarily accounted for by the lower appropriation in connection with international fisheries agreements. The higher appropriation for the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) is most welcome.

## 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:

### *On the European Commission draft budget*

1. Endorses the Commission's fisheries and maritime policy proposals in the 2011 draft budget despite the fact that the 2007-2013 multiannual financial framework does not take adequate account of the political importance of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), in particular as regards the political expectations from greater EU involvement in fisheries control, in fisheries research, in modernisation of the fleet to save energy and improve safety, and in cushioning the social effects of what is a necessary reduction in capacity;
2. Welcomes the proposed increase in commitment and payment appropriations for the European Fisheries Fund (EFF);
3. Deplores the proposed cut in commitment appropriations for support for the management of fish resources (improvement of scientific advice) proposed by the European Commission, since expanding fisheries research is an essential prerequisite for a successful fisheries policy, particularly in establishing fishing opportunities on an annual basis and guaranteeing the sustainable management of resources and a socio-economically viable fisheries sector; notes that, in the medium and long term, a significant increase in expenditure on fisheries research is essential for successful reform of the CFP;
4. Welcomes the fact that the proposed budget appropriations for the Community Fisheries Control Agency are to be increased, since this Agency carries out important work and should thus be given sufficient support to cope with its increasing workload; considers that such increases should be sufficient to extend the work of the agency to cover the

policing of International Partnership Agreements;

5. Considers that, in order for the Union to be able to fulfil its international fisheries control responsibilities, the operational budget of the Community Fisheries Control Agency should be enhanced so as to allow it to charter the patrol vessels when necessary;
6. Points out that, as in the case of the CFP, the funds proposed for the development of an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) are not sufficient to cover the most important aspects of the launch of this new policy; calls for specific budget headings to be created for the Union's new IMP, which must be endowed with sufficient appropriations so that the IMP does not develop at the expense of the CFP;
7. Notes the markedly reduced payment appropriations for international fisheries agreements; regards as positive, in this connection, the announcement by the Commission that in future, with regard to the use of appropriations, it will make a transparent distinction between payments to obtain fishing rights and payments intended to assist the development of the third country concerned;
8. Deplores the lack of funding for a number of areas in which coordinated action at EU level is imperative, in particular for the dissemination of knowledge already gained about selective fishing gear and for the coordination of, and support for, applied fisheries research; stresses the need for R&D funding to build up expertise on all stocks and establish the average sustainable yield under the CFP;

#### ***On the proposed Council amendments***

9. Rejects forcefully the severe cuts in the fisheries chapter in the Council's position on the 2011 budget; deplores the Council's willingness to reduce drastically the Union's already inadequate contribution to this sector; considers that any further cuts in EU funding are not conducive to sustainable development in the fisheries sector;
10. Strongly deplores the Council's proposals to cut commitment and payment appropriations in the area of fisheries control, both as regards EU involvement in the tasks carried out by the Member States in this field and with respect to the Union's own control activities; points out that the Commission is already only able to provide funds for 20 inspectors, which is no more than a drop in the ocean as regards the urgent need to further expand the EU control network, given the scale of fishing activity and the expanse of EU waters;
11. Deplores also the Council proposal to cut the appropriations for the Community Fisheries Control Agency in Vigo in comparison with the Commission's proposal; points out that this Agency provides significant value added in that it helps coordinate EU-wide fisheries control;
12. Deplores the Council's proposal to make massive cuts in the resources to support Member States in the collection of scientific data; reminds the Council in this context that the database for fisheries policies decisions is currently highly unsatisfactory; also reminds the Council that European Commission support is all the more valuable since Member States are not always diligent in fulfilling their obligations to collect and transmit fisheries data;

13. Calls on the Council to review its position on the level of payments under the EFF, as expenditure redeployment otherwise seems inevitable; condemns the Council's call to cut the budgetary resources intended to monitor the proper use of EFF resources.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	30.8.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 18 -: 0 0: 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Josefa Andrés Barea, Kriton Arsenis, João Ferreira, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk, Carl Haglund, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Isabella Lövin, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Guido Milana, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Britta Reimers, Crescenzo Rivellini, Ulrike Rodust, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Jean-Paul Basset, Ole Christensen, Chris Davies, Diane Dodds, Antolín Sánchez Presedo
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Constance Le Grip