



Committee on Fisheries

2017/2166(DEC)

2.3.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Fisheries Control Agency for the financial year 2016
(2017/2166(DEC))

Rapporteur: Isabelle Thomas

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Underlines the importance of the European Fisheries Control Agency (the 'Agency') in the harmonisation and application of the principles of the common fisheries policy (CFP); welcomes its effectiveness, the progress made and the excellent results achieved since it was set up;
2. Highlights the Agency's contribution to the harmonisation and standardisation of CFP measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance with the aim of ensuring equal treatment and improving compliance with the rules, including the landing obligation;
3. Points to the role played by the Agency with regard to the Union's cooperation with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), in order to strengthen compliance with measures, especially those to combat IUU fishing, adopted by these international organisations;
4. Takes note of the annual report of the Court of Auditors on the Agency for the financial year 2016 and of the Agency's 2016 annual activity report;
5. Expresses its satisfaction at the 15% increase in inspections in 2016, reflecting improved coordination of human resources with the Member States through joint deployment plans (JDPs) and coordination of operational plans;
6. Points out that the Agency's budget has remained unchanged for the last five years despite the increase in its missions and inspections; that its spending on human resources has nevertheless not changed; that the cost of operations fell over the same period; stresses that these elements, which reflect the optimisation of resources and quality of management at the Agency, may hinder progress due to a lack of sufficient budget appropriations while putting pressure on agents' activities to an extent that should be audited to ensure the quality of their working conditions;
7. Expresses its satisfaction at the Court of Auditors' statement as to the legality and regularity of the transactions relating to the annual accounts for the financial year 2016 and the Court's assessment, in its Special Report 08/2017, of the Agency's fundamental role in developing and enhancing a harmonised and coherent approach to systems for communication and the exchange of data on fishery products;
8. Stresses the excellent implementation rate for C1 commitment appropriations (99.6 %), an improvement over the previous year, and for C1 payment appropriations (88.5 %), stable compared to the previous years; encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to ensure optimum take-up of the appropriations allocated;
9. Acknowledges the quality and relevance of the joint work carried out by the Agency as part of the pilot common project with the European Maritime Safety Agency and Frontex on the creation of a coastguard function; but reminds the Commission that the Agency should be given sufficient resources for this type of project or any other future project, in particular

those linked to the use of new technologies in monitoring (drones) or training (e-learning);

10. Recalls the importance of expanding the Agency's mandate with a view to developing joint operational activities with other Union agencies in the maritime sector, in order to prevent disasters at sea and to coordinate the work of European coastguards;
11. Points out that the Agency should be given sufficient resources to conduct new types of operations to disrupt people smuggling routes, as well as to use the data provided by its ship reporting systems in order to detect vessels carrying migrants;
12. Stresses the need to increase the allocation of resources in order to boost the Agency's operational capacity to cope with the uncertainties linked to Brexit and the resulting additional checks;
13. Points to the lack of gender balance in the composition of the Agency's staff and calls for consideration to be given to a fair distribution of duties;
14. Proposes including a Member of the European Parliament on the Administrative Board of the Agency in order to strengthen its institutional transparency, particularly during the approval of the budget by the Board; proposes that this Member be chosen from within the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament;
15. Proposes, on the basis of the data available, to grant discharge to the Executive Director of the Agency in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2016.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	27.2.2018
Result of final vote	+: 14 -: 5 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Alain Cadec, David Coburn, Linnéa Engström, João Ferreira, Sylvie Goddyn, Mike Hookem, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Norica Nicolai, Liadh Ní Riada, Ulrike Rodust, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Remo Sernagiotto, Isabelle Thomas, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen, Jarosław Wałsa
Substitutes present for the final vote	Norbert Erdős, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Liliana Rodrigues

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

14	+
ALDE	António Marinho e Pinto, Norica Nicolai
PPE	Alain Cadec, Norbert Erdős, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, Gabriel Mato, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Jarosław Wałsa
S&D	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Liliana Rodrigues, Ulrike Rodust, Isabelle Thomas
VERTS/ALE	Linnéa Engström

5	-
EFDD	David Coburn, Mike Hookem
ENF	Sylvie Goddyn
GUE/NGL	João Ferreira, Liadh Ní Riada

3	0
ECR	Peter van Dalen, Remo Sernagiotto, Ruža Tomašić

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention