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**A5-0192/2001**

30 May 2001

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## **REPORT**

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros for the period from 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004  
(COM(2001) 173 – C5-0144/2001 – 2001/0088(CNS))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Fernando Pérez Royo

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*I Cooperation procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*II Cooperation procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position  
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend  
the common position*
- \*\*\* Assent procedure  
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases  
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and  
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- \*\*\*I Codecision procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position  
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend  
the common position*
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

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## PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 10 April 2001 the Council consulted Parliament, pursuant to Article 37 in conjunction with Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty , on the proposal for a Council Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros for the period from 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004 (COM(2001) 173 - 2001/0088(CNS)).

At the sitting of 2 May 2001 the President of Parliament announced that she had referred this proposal to the Committee on Fisheries as the committee responsible and the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Development and Cooperation for their opinions(C5-0144/2001).

The Committee on Fisheries had appointed Fernando Pérez Royo rapporteur at its meeting of 23 January 2001.

The committee considered the Commission proposal and draft report at its meetings of 6 February, 24 April and 29 May 2001.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution by 16 votes to 1.

The following were present for the vote: Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, chairman; Rosa Miguélez Ramos and Hugues Martin, vice-chairmen; Fernando Pérez Royo, rapporteur; Niels Busk, Arlindo Cunha, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Jorge Salvador Hernández Mollar (for Brigitte Langenhagen), Michael John Holmes (for Nigel Paul Farage), Ian Stewart Hudghton, Salvador Jové Peres (for Mihail Papayannakis), Heinz Kindermann, Albert Jan Maat (for James Nicholson), John Joseph McCartin (for Antonio Tajani), Yves Piétrasanta (for Patricia McKenna), Bernard Poignant and Dominique F.C. Souchet.

The opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Development and Cooperation are attached.

The report was tabled on 30 May 2001.

The deadline for tabling amendments will be indicated in the draft agenda for the relevant part-session.

## LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

**Proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros for the period from 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004 (COM(2001) 173 – C5-0144/2001 – 2001/0088(CNS))**

The proposal is amended as follows:

Text proposed by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 1)  
Recital 2a (new)

***Whereas it is important to improve the information supplied to the European Parliament and whereas the Commission should draw up a yearly report on the state of implementation of the Agreement;***

*Justification:*

*To underline the importance of providing adequate information to the European Parliament to enable it to carry out its duties.*

(Amendment 2)  
Recital 3a (new)

***Whereas the growing pressure world wide on the planet's fisheries resources means that activities carried out within the framework of fisheries agreements between the European Community and third countries should focus on the responsible and sustainable use and conservation of fisheries resources, so as to optimise to the utmost their long-term potential in the realm of food security,***

*Justification:*

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<sup>1</sup> Not yet published in OJ.

*This highlights the importance of incorporating into all Community policies the precautionary principle and the principle of sustainable development.*

(Amendment 3)  
Article 2a (new)

***During the final year of the Protocol's validity and before any agreement on the renewal thereof is concluded, the Commission shall submit to Parliament and the Council a report on the application of the Agreement and the conditions under which it was implemented. This report also includes a cost benefit analysis.***

*Justification:*

*Before the conclusion of any new agreement the Commission should require the authorities of the State with which it is entering into negotiations to supply information on the basis of which the Commission will submit a general assessment report to the Parliament and the Council.*

(Amendment 4)  
Article 2b (new)

***The Commission shall forward to the Council and the Parliament a copy of the report on the targeted measures which the authorities of Comores will provide on the basis of article 3 of the protocol.***

*Justification:*

*Targeted measures are becoming increasingly important from both the financial and social point of view. Therefore the report as laid down in the Protocol and supplied to the Commission should be forwarded to the Parliament and the Council.*

(Amendment 5)  
Article 2c (new)

***On the basis of these reports and following consultation of the European Parliament the Council shall grant the Commission a negotiating mandate in respect of the protocols for implementing the Agreement.***

*Justification:*

*Only on the basis of both the report concerning the implementation of the targeted measures and the evaluation report on the implementation of the fisheries agreement the European Parliament and the Council are able to carry out their respective duties.*

(Amendment 6)  
Article 2a (new)

***Asks the Commission to seek assurances from the Comoro's Government that they will do all they can to protect the habitat of the Coelacanth, a unique 'fossil' fish, and to offer EU assistance to help ensure such protection***

*Justification*

*Aware of the EU's commitment to animal welfare issues both in the EU and outside, and believes that the EU should co-operate with other governments with whom it draws up fisheries agreements to protect the habitat of unique fish where necessary.*

## DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros for the period from 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004 (COM(2001) 173 – C5-0144/2001 – 2001/0088(CNS))**

### **(Consultation procedure)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2001) 173<sup>1</sup>),
  - having regard to Article 300(2) of the EC Treaty,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 37 with Article 300(3), first subparagraph of the EC Treaty (C5-0144/2001,
  - having regard to Rule 67 and 97(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries and the opinions of the Committee on Budgetsand the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A5-0192/2001),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
  2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 250(2) of the EC Treaty;
  3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
  4. Asks to be consulted again if the Council intends to amend the Commission proposal substantially;
  5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Not yet published in OJ.



## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

### Introduction

The fisheries agreement with the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros was signed in 1988 and was extended in 1991 with further Protocols being concluded for the period from 20 July 1994 to 19 July 1997 and from 28 February 1998 to 27 February 2001. The proposed new Protocol is to set the technical and financial conditions governing the fishing activities of Community vessels operating in Comoran waters during the period of 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004. Under the draft agreement the first instalment of financial compensation must be paid before 1 September 2001.

### Main substance of the Protocol

The table below provides an overview of the key data relating to the agreement compared with the key figures from previous protocols.

Development of Agreement 1988 - 2004					
	1988 - 1991	1991 - 1994	1994 - 1997	1998 - 2001	2001 - 2004
Financial Contribution (3 years)	1 400 000 ECU	1 400 000 ECU	1 080 000 ECU	1 080 000 ECU	1 050 750 €
Financial Contribution (per year)	466 667 ECU	466 667 ECU	360 000 ECU	360 000 ECU	350 250 €
Compensation (3 years)	900 000 ECU	900 000 ECU	675 000 ECU	540 000 ECU	420 000 €
Targeted Measures (3 years)	500 000 ECU	500 000 ECU	405 000 ECU	540 000 ECU	630 750 € *
Allowed catches (per year)	6 000 tonnes	6 000 tonnes	4 500 tonnes	4 500 tonnes	4 670 tonnes
Vessels					
Tuna seiners	40	42	37	44	40
Longliners	-	-	-	16	25
Fishing fee/ tonne	20 ECU	20 ECU	20 ECU	20 ECU	25 €
Lumpsum Licence fee	1000 ECU for 50 tonnes	1000 ECU for 50 tonnes	1500 ECU for 75 tonnes	- 1750 ECU (Tuna seiners) - 750 ECU (Longliners)	2250 € (Tuna seiners) Surface longliners: -1375 € > 150 GRT -1000 € < 150 GRT

- \* - 378 000 € Assistance for the development of the local fisheries sector  
 - 94 800 € Technical and scientific programmes; assistance to the ministry responsible for fisheries  
 - 157 950 € Participation of Comoran delegations in international meetings; contribution of the Comoros in regional fisheries organisations; grants and stages

As may be seen from the above table, the current protocol proposes some changes from the situation pertaining during the 1998 -2001 period, with the total Community financial contribution going down slightly from 1 080 000 Ecus to 1 050 750 for a somewhat higher reference tonnage of 4 670 tonnes per annum. On the other hand fishing fees per tonnes have gone up from 20 ECU to 25 € per tonne, a figure which is in line with other recently renewed protocols. Depending from the utilisation of the fishing possibilities offered by the agreement this might even lead to a moderate increase of revenues for the Comoros.

A limited number of changes have been negotiated in order to better reflect the concerns of both parties and in particular with regard to the composition of the Community fleet and the development of a sustainable fisheries sector in the Comoros islands. The principal changes are as follows:

- (i) The number of vessels authorised to fish in Comoran waters has been increased from 60 to 65, comprising 40 tuna seiners (down from 44) and 25 surface longliners (up from 16), added at the request of the Member States concerned. As a matter of fact this figure reflects the number of vessels also active in neighbouring waters and concerns mainly the same fleet of EU vessels active in this area.

The breakdown for the allocation of fishing opportunities is foreseen as follows:

- Tuna seiners:	Spain:	18 vessels
	France:	21 vessels
	Italy:	1 vessel
- Surface longliners	Spain:	20 vessels
	Portugal:	5 vessels

- (ii) Although the total financial contribution has been reduced somewhat, the distribution has been adjusted in favour of targeted measures. The percentage of the targeted measures as part of the total EC financial contribution is going up from 50% to 60%. Financial compensation of 420 000 € will be paid into the Public Treasury for the discretionary use of the Comoros government. The additional 630 750 € (210 250 € per year) for targeted measures will be distributed as is shown in the table above.

- (iii) The advance payable by Community ship owners for fishing licences has in the case of tuna seiners been increased from 1500 to 1750 Ecus, being the equivalent of 70 tonnes of catch. Advances on licence fees for surface longliners have gone up as well,

depending on the gross tonnage of the vessels involved. The advances are based on a fishing fee per tonne which has been increased from 20 to 25€ per tonne.

## Comments

This agreement almost exclusively concerns tuna. The reference tonnage of catches has gone up from 4 500 tonnes per year to 4 670 tonnes. In spite of this slight increase the contribution of the European Community has gone down somewhat. The total revenues for the Comoros however will be compensated by higher fishing fees and subsequently higher advances to be paid by ship owners. The rapporteur approves this adjustment made in the protocol which brings the fees in line with other recently renewed protocols.

The rapporteur especially welcomes the higher proportion of targeted measures included in the financial contribution, going up from 50 to 60% in the renewed protocol. The rapporteur believes that this kind of funding will contribute to the development of the local fisheries in one of the poorest nations in the world (GDP per capita of 725USD in 1998<sup>1</sup>). These targeted measures also allow the Comoran authorities to take part in meetings of regional fisheries organisations. Moreover some of the targeted measures could also be in the interest of the fishing activities of EU vessels such as inspection actions which might contribute to the reduction of pirate fisheries.

Given the instable political situation in the country after turbulent events in recent years such as in 1997 the breaking up of the three islands constituting the Comoran Republic and the seizure of power by military in the Comoros' capital Moroni in 1999, the high level of targeted measures best guarantees that money will arrive where it is in the best interest of the development of the country's fisheries sector.

In the light of the political instability the rapporteur also supports the inclusion of a suspension clause for EC payments in the case the situation in the country prevents normal fishing activities. This provision has been added in all the other recently renewed protocols. It has to be said that during the period the last protocol was in effect fishing activities and collaboration with Comoran authorities have been running practically without problems.

The number and type of vessels active under this agreement to a large extent concerns the fleet present and active in this area of the Indian Ocean. Together with other fisheries agreements with neighbouring countries it allows the EU vessels to follow the movements of these highly migratory fish stocks and to catch fish in either the Comoran waters or in the waters of neighbouring countries or even the high seas. It is therefore difficult to judge the efficacy of a protocol just on the basis of the widely varying catches. A second reference point for assessing the utilisation of fishing possibilities is the number of licences issued. Both for the surface longliners and the tuna seiners a high level of utilisation has been reached during the period the former protocol was in effect.

As in the previous protocol in this agreement (article 3) an annual debriefing on how the money for targeted measures was spent is included. Parliament insists it receives copies of the mentioned reports because without this information the European Parliament is not able to give its judgement on this substantial part of the protocol.

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<sup>1</sup> Source CIA-Handbook 2000

A second important element missing in this protocol is the absence of the Commission's obligation to forward data on the application of the fisheries agreement to the Parliament. In the latest Framework Agreement between the Parliament and the Commission (signed on 5 July 2000) it is stated that "the Commission shall provide early and clear briefing of the European Parliament in order to be able to take due account of the European Parliaments' views in so far as possible. A general assessment report on the application and the conditions under which the protocol has been implemented is an essential part of the information the Parliament requires in order to analyse the application of previous protocols and to judge renewed ones. In its latest report (1998) on the 1998 - 2001 fisheries agreement with the Comoros Parliament has requested "an annual report on the state of the implementation of this Agreement" as well as a report in the final year of validity "on the application and conditions of implementation of the Agreement." From the two requested documents Parliament has received only the latter. However, it must be said, this is a very comprehensive evaluation paper containing valuable information over the years 1994 to 1999. The utilisation rate in terms of licences issued was quite satisfactory varying from 72% for tuna seiners in 2000 to 100% for longliners in 1998. Utilisation in terms of catches lay at a lower level although only limited significance can be given to this figure because it is hard to predict if the highly migratory fish is caught in Comoran or neighbouring waters.

In spite of the change for the better in the way Parliament has been informed by the Commission concerning the fisheries agreement with the Comoran authorities, there is considerable room left for further improvements.

In previous reports, the European Parliament considered it imperative that the Council and Commission take the necessary measures to improve the information flow in order that:

- the evaluation reports called for by the European Parliament be submitted before the start of negotiations on a new agreement;
- the European Parliament be involved in the discussions concerning negotiations by establishing a procedure for notifying it on the negotiating brief;
- the European Parliament's opinion be requested before the Council takes a decision on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on provisional application of a protocol and, in principle, also before the expiry of an agreement in force.

## **Conclusion**

In the light of the above considerations, the rapporteur recommends the approval to the proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the conclusion of the Protocol establishing the fishing possibilities and the financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros for the period 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004, subject to the amendments set out above.

25 April 2001

# OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros for the period from 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004  
(COM(2001) 173 - C5-0144/2001 – 2001/0088 (CNS))

## **Draftsman: Bárbara Dührkop DührkopPROCEDURE**

At its meeting of 27 February 2001 the Committee on Budgets appointed Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 25 April 2001.

At the last meeting it adopted the following conclusions unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn, chairman; Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, vice-chairman/draftsman;; Jean-Louis Bourlanges, Carlos Carnero González (for Paulo Casaca pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Joan Colom i Naval, Carlos Costa Neves, Göran Färm, Markus Ferber, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Laura González Álvarez, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta D. Haug, Anne Elisabet Jensen, John Joseph McCartin, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Bernhard Rapkay (for Neena Gill pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Heide Rühle, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski, Ralf Walter and Brigitte Wenzel-Perillo.

## BACKGROUND/GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The Protocol to the Fisheries Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution expired on 27 February 2001. The two parties initialed a new Protocol on 13 December 2000. A draft Council Decision concerning the provisional application of the new protocol pending its final entry into force is subject to a separate procedure (without consultation of the Parliament).
2. The Commission informed the Parliament's Committee on Fisheries with letter of 21 December 2000 about the new protocol as initialed and transmitted the text of the protocol. No draft financial statement was enclosed. The Commission presented the formal proposal for a Council Regulation on the Conclusion of the Protocol including the financial statement on 28 March 2001. Council has not consulted the Parliament on the Commission proposal yet.
3. The protocol foresees the following financial contributions through the EU budget:

in €

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Total</b>
Commitment appropriations				
Financial compensation	140 000	140 000	140 000	420 000
Assistance for small-scale fisheries	126 000	126 000	126 000	378 000
Scientific and technical programmes, institutional aid to Ministry	31 600	31 600	31 600	94 800
Contributions to internat. fisheries organizations, study grants and practical training, participation in internation. meetings on fisheries	52 650	52 650	52 650	157 950
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>320 250</b>	<b>320 250</b>	<b>320 250</b>	<b>1 050 750</b>
<b>Payment appropriations</b>	<b>320 250</b>	<b>320 250</b>	<b>320 250</b>	<b>1 050 750</b>

4. The present protocol provides for slightly higher fishing opportunities (authorised catches of 4 670 tonnes annually) compared to its predecessor (authorised catches of 4 500 tonnes per year in 1998 to 2001). The total annual costs for the EU budget are reduced from € 360 000 for the previous protocol to € 320 250 for the protocol now initialed. The contribution from the EU budget per tonne authorised catches is adjusted to the average contained in most fisheries agreements with ACP states. It equals € 75 per tonne in the new protocol, compared to € 80 in the previous protocol. Consequently, the share of the ship-owners has been increased from € 20 to € 25 per tonne. The financial contribution of the EU is directed more to targeted measures compared to the 1998-2001 protocol (60% instead of 50% of the total contribution). While the support for scientific and technical programmes and

institutional support to the Ministry responsible for fisheries is considerably (from about € 143 000 to € 31 600 per year) and to support for participation in international meetings, contributions to regional fisheries organisations and study grants is slightly reduced (from € 66 000 to € 52 650 per year), the protocol provides now for an annual support of € 126 000 for small-scale fisheries which did not exist under the previous protocol.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The Committee on Budgets takes note that the European Commission has only presented its proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the present protocol more than 3 months after initialling the protocol. The Committee welcomes the important fact that the protocol foresees that the financial compensation shall be paid not later than 1 September each year. This will provide the necessary time frame for the consultation of the Parliament before the first payment to the Comoros has to be effected.
2. The Committee on Budgets welcomes the reduction of the share of the direct financial compensation, the use of which is the exclusive competence of the Government of the Comoros (Article 2(4) of the Protocol), and increase of the amount for targeted measures. In particular, the introduction of a considerable support for the assistance for the development of non-industrial fishing can be seen as positive for the development of the Comoros small-scale fisheries sector.
3. The Committee on Budgets welcomes the inclusion of suspension clauses, which gives the possibility to suspend the fishing agreement either in the case that the Community fails to make the payments provide for in the protocol (Article 4) or in the case that “severe circumstances prevent fishing activities in the Comorian fishing zone” (Article 5). If such provisions – together with a deadline for the first payment which had respected the right of Parliament to deliver its opinion before this deadline - had been included in the recently discussed fisheries agreement with Greenland, the debate on the withdrawal of fishing rights for EU ship-owners through the Greenland Local Government could have been avoided; as well as a lot of problems in the case of the protocol with Guinea-Bissau, which was unilaterally suspended by the Commission from June 1998 to April 1999 without a proper legal base for the suspension.
4. The Committee on Budgets welcomes the new form of information on the evaluation of the previous protocol, which has been significantly improved and allows a general assessment of the previous protocol. The committee maintains, nevertheless, its amendments as the evaluation report was only transmitted to Parliament after the protocol was initialled, and, therefore, Parliament was not consulted before the negotiations with the third country.
5. The Committee on Budgets stresses that not only the number of allowed catches (annual reference tonnage) should be taken into account for a cost benefit analysis, but also the number of catches effected. A comparison of the declared catches during the previous protocol with the reference tonnage shows that a cost-effectiveness analysis is not as favourable as stressed in the Commission’s financial statement. In 1998 only 2440 tonnes

and 1268 tonnes of catches in 1999 were declared compared to the reference amount of 4 500 tonnes per year. This increases the costs for the EU budget from € 80 (in relation to allowed catches) to € 194 (in relation to declared catches) per tonne. In addition, licence fees paid by ship-owners of € 20 per tonne have to be added. These costs can be compared to the commercial value of tuna catches of around € 1000 per tonne.

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

(Amendment 1)  
Article 2a (1) (new)

***1. In the course of the Protocol's application, and before the start of negotiations on its possible renewal, the Commission shall submit to the Council and European Parliament a general assessment report including a cost benefit analysis.***

*Justification*

*Before the expiry of the previous protocol, the European Commission presented to Parliament an evaluation report on the previous protocol after initialling the new protocol. The Commission did not provide the European Parliament with information allowing a serious assessment and the presentation of an opinion by the Parliament before the start of negotiations.*

(Amendment 2)  
Article 2a (2) (new)

***2. The Council shall, on the basis of that report and taking account of the European Parliament's opinion thereon, authorise the Commission, where appropriate, to start negotiations with a view to the adoption of a new Protocol.***

*Justification*

*The Committee on Budgets reiterates the demand for the general assessment report to be presented by the Commission before the beginning of negotiations on a new or renewed agreement or protocol. The Council shall only give the authorisation to the Commission to start negotiations on the basis of the assessment report and the opinion of the European Parliament. This position is in line with the conclusion N° D of the Working Document on*



*European Community Fisheries Agreements (PE 289.538) approved by the Committee on Budgets on 23 May 2000. It is also in line with the position taken by the Parliament on other fisheries agreements*

10 April 2001

# OPINION

of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros for the period from 28 February 2001 to 27 February 2004  
(COM(2001)173 – C5-0144/2001 – 2001/0088(CNS))

Draftsman: Joaquim Miranda

## PROCEDURE

The Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Joaquim Miranda draftsman at its meeting of 6 March 2001.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 6 March 2001.

At its meeting of 10 April 2001 it adopted the following amendments unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Lone Dybkjær, vice chair and acting chair, Margrietus J. van den Berg, vice-chairman, Yasmine Boudjenah, John Bowis (for John Alexander Corrie), Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Paul Coûteaux, Nirj Deva, Concepció Ferrer (for Bashir Khanbhai), Michael Gahler (for Karsten Knolle), Vitaliano Gemelli, Roger Helmer (for Pier Ferdinando Casini), Richard Howitt, Renzo Imbeni, Glenys Kinnock, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Paul A.A.J.G. Lannoye, Nelly Maes (Didier Rod), Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Hans Modrow, Luisa Morgantini (for Joaquim Miranda), Ulla Margrethe Sandbæk, Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco, Charles Tannock (for Hervé Novelli), Jan-Kees Wiebenga (for Bob van den Bos), Anders Wijkman (for Fernando Fernández Martín), Stavros Xarchakos, Jürgen Zimmerling.

## AMENDMENTS

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

Text proposed by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

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Amendments by Parliament

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(Amendment 1)  
Recital 2a (new)

***Whereas it is important to improve the information on fisheries agreements supplied to the European Parliament***

*Justification:*

*See amendment 5.*

(Amendment 2)  
Recital 3a (new)

***Whereas the growing pressure world wide on the planet's fisheries resources means that activities carried out within the framework of fisheries agreements between the European Community and third countries should focus on the responsible and sustainable use and conservation of fisheries resources, so as to optimise to the utmost their long-term potential in the realm of food security,***

*Justification:*

*This highlights the importance of incorporating into all Community policies the precautionary principle and the principle of sustainable development.*

(Amendment 3)  
Article 2a (new)

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C

***During the Protocol's validity, and before, the start of negotiations on its possible renewal, the Commission shall submit to the Council and European Parliament a general assessment report, including inter alia a cost-benefit analysis, the state of fish stocks, and an assessment of the Protocol's impact on the development of the local fishing industry, taking due account of the need to ensure consistency with development policy.***

*Justification:*

*The Committee on Development reiterates its request that the Commission submit an assessment report before beginning negotiations so that the impact of the agreement, both at European and Comoros level, can be evaluated. The Committee on Development also recalls the requirement, laid down in the Treaties, for consistency between the various Community policies with external implications, particularly fisheries policy and development policy.*

(Amendment 4)  
Article 2b (new)

***The Commission shall forward a copy of the annual report on the targeted measures sent to it, as laid down in Article 3 of the Protocol, by the Government of the Republic of the Comoros .***

*Justification:*

*Given that the targeted measures represent an ever-increasing percentage of the total financial compensation, there must be greater transparency and more information as regards the use of the allocations granted, so as to assess their impact on the development of the local fishing industry.*

(Amendment 5)  
Article 2c (new)

***The Council shall, on the basis of these reports and taking account of the European Parliament's opinion thereon,***

***authorise the Commission, where appropriate, to start negotiations with a view to the adoption of a new Protocol.***

*Justification:*

*Only on the basis of the reports in question can Parliament and Council discharge their responsibilities correctly.*