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REPORT

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
(COM(2007)0580 – C6-0391/2007 – 2007/0209(CNS))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos

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.)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau *
(COM(2007)0580 – C6-0391/2007 – 2007/0209(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council regulation (COM(2007)0580),
 - having regard to Article 37 and Article 300(2) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Article 300(3), first subparagraph, of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C6-0391/2007),
 - having regard to Rules 51 and 83(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries and the opinions of the Committee on Development and the Committee on Budgets (A6-0053/2008),
1. Approves the proposal for a Council regulation as amended and approves conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 2 a (new)

(2a) It is important to improve the information provided to the European Parliament. To this end, the Commission should forward the conclusions of the meetings of the joint committee referred to in Article 10 of the Agreement.

Justification

Parliament needs to be supplied with proper information so that it can evaluate the agreement.

Amendment 2
Article 3, paragraph 1 a (new)

The Commission shall evaluate each year whether Member States whose vessels operate under the protocol to the agreement have complied with reporting requirements. Where this is not the case, the Commission shall withhold their requests for fishing licences for the following year.

Justification

Vessels that do not comply with the most basic requirement, reporting what they catch, should not benefit from financial support from the EU.

Amendment 3
Article 3 a (new)

Article 3a

The Commission shall report annually to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of the multiannual sectoral programme described in Article 7 of the protocol as well as on compliance by the Member States with reporting requirements.

Justification

In order to evaluate whether the compensation paid by the EU is properly accounted for and does in fact promote the sustainable use of fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau, the Commission should report annually to Parliament.

Amendment 4
Article 3 b (new)

Article 3b

During the final year of the protocol's validity and before another agreement is concluded on its renewal, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the

application of the agreement and the conditions under which it was implemented.

Justification

Before any new agreement is concluded, the Commission should ask the authorities of the country with which it is opening negotiations to provide it with information on the basis of which it will submit a general assessment report to Parliament and the Council.

Amendment 5
Article 3 c (new)

Article 3c

On the basis of the report referred to in Article 3a and after consulting the European Parliament, the Council shall, where appropriate, grant the Commission a negotiating mandate with a view to the adoption of a new protocol.

Justification

Parliament and the Council will be able to discharge their respective duties only on the basis of the evaluation report on the application of the fisheries agreement.

Amendment 6
Article 3 d (new)

Article 3d

The Commission shall forward to the European Parliament the conclusions of the meetings of the joint committee referred to in Article 10 of the Agreement.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau negotiated and initialled, on 23 May 2007, a fisheries partnership agreement which provides Community fishermen with fishing opportunities in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone. This partnership agreement, accompanied by a protocol and the annexes thereto, was signed for a period of four years and is renewable.

On the date of its entry into force, this agreement repeals and replaces the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the European Community on fishing off the coast of Guinea-Bissau, which entered into force on 29 August 1980 and was one of the oldest agreements signed by the Community.

The previous protocol annexed to the fisheries agreement between the European Community and Guinea-Bissau expired on 15 June 2007, having been extended for one year¹. The new protocol covers the period from 16 June 2007 to 15 June 2011.

The following table provides an overview of the previous protocols from the entry into force of the first framework agreement in 1980.

EC-GUINEA-BISSAU FISHERIES PROTOCOLS 1980-2007

Period covered	Total financial contribution (€)	Targeted measures (€)	Targeted measures (%)
16/06/04 15/06/07	25 030 000 (7 260 000/year + 3 250 000)	3 250 000	12.9
16/06/01 15/06/04	30 000 000 (10 000 000/year)	3 000 000	10
16/6/97 15/6/01	36 000 000 (9 000 000/year)	2 000 000	5.56
16/6/95 15/5/97	11 500 000 + 1 200 000 (5 750 000/year + 600 000)	700 000	5.76
16/6/93 15/6/95	12 700 000 (6 350 000/year)	700 000	5.51
16/6/91 15/6/93	13 350 000 (6 675 000/year)	1 350 000	10.11
16/6/89 15/6/91	11 930 000 (5 965 000/year)	1 100 000	9.22
16/6/86 15/6/89	7 900 000 (2 633 000/year)	400 000	5.06
15/3/86 15/6/86	Extension of the previous Protocol <i>Pro rata temporis</i>	---	
16/3/83 15/3/86	4 275 000 (1 425 000/year)	---	

¹ Council Decision 2006/511/EC of 11 July 2006 and Council Regulation (EC) No 1491 of 10 October 2006.

1981	FF 12 800 000	---	
1983	(FF 6 400 000/year)		

ASSESSMENT

A thorough evaluation was carried out on the 2001-2006 protocol with the assistance of a consortium of independent consultants, ending in December 2005, with a view to the launch of negotiations on a new protocol.

The ex ante evaluation concluded that, by meeting the needs of the European fleets, the fisheries agreement with Guinea-Bissau helps support the viability of the Community's trawler and tuna industries in the Atlantic Ocean and offers Community vessels and the industries which depend on them a stable legal environment and medium-term visibility.

As regards Guinea-Bissau's interests under the agreement, the evaluation concluded that the fisheries agreement helps strengthen institutional capacities in the fisheries sector, by improving export controls, research, and monitoring, control and surveillance activities, and has a major impact on the country's budgetary and political stability.

According to the evaluation report, the main problems encountered in implementing the agreement are linked to shortcomings in the industry's infrastructure in Guinea-Bissau and difficulties in monitoring illegal, undeclared and unregulated fishing.

The evaluation report recommends reducing fishing effort for shrimp and maintaining fishing effort for fin-fish and cephalopods at the same level as under the 2001-2006 protocol. For tuna fishing categories, it also recommends maintaining access rights for the same number of vessels (seiners and pole-and-line vessels) and considering removing fishing opportunities for longliners.

On the basis of the scientific opinion drawn up by the Guinea-Bissau CIPA (Centro de Investigação Pesqueira Aplicada) at the end of 2006, the analysis of the use of fishing opportunities since 2004 and requests from the Member States, it was possible to maintain fishing opportunities for shrimp and for fin-fish/cephalopods in the new protocol at the same level as in the previous protocol, whilst fishing opportunities for the tuna category have been reduced.

MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE PROTOCOL AND THE ANNEXES

The main objective of the new partnership agreement is to strengthen cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone, in the interests of both parties.

The two parties have agreed to take part in a political dialogue on topics of mutual interest in the fisheries sector. They also undertake to ensure the sustainable exploitation of resources and the control and surveillance of Guinea-Bissau fishing zones, and to work towards building up institutional capacities in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in order to carry out a genuine sectoral fisheries policy.

In this context, the two parties will agree on the priorities to be decided upon for such support and will identify the objectives, the annual and multiannual programming and the criteria to assess the results to be obtained, with a view to ensuring a sustainable and responsible management of the sector. Annex IV to the protocol provides a basic outline of the objectives and performance indicators to be taken into account within the framework of the protocol.

The financial contribution is fixed at EUR 7 million per year (i.e. EUR 28 million in total over the four years). 35% of this financial contribution (EUR 2.45 million, i.e. EUR 9.8 million over the four-year period) will be allocated each year to the support and implementation of initiatives taken in the context of the sectoral fisheries policy drawn up by the Government of Guinea-Bissau. With a view to ensuring a sustainable and responsible management of the sector, the parties have agreed to concentrate on the following areas of assistance: monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities, scientific research, and management and development of fisheries.

An additional specific contribution of EUR 500 000 per year (EUR 2 million over the four-year period) will also be targeted at improving the health and hygiene conditions of fishery products. However, this contribution could also be used to support control and surveillance measures. The protocol will also contain a financial mechanism, with a maximum allocation of EUR 1 million per year, aiming to improve the use of fishing opportunities by shipowners.

The fee to be paid by shipowners per tonne of tuna caught in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone has been set at EUR 35 for tuna seiners and longliners (EUR 25/tonne in the previous protocol) and at EUR 25 for pole-and-line vessels (the same as in the previous protocol). The annual advances have been fixed at EUR 3 150 per tuna seiner and longliner (for 90 tonnes/year) and at EUR 500 per pole-and-line tuna vessel (for 20 tonnes/year). Annual fees for fin-fish and cephalopod trawlers and for shrimp trawlers are EUR 229 and EUR 307/GRT respectively. By comparison with the previous protocol, fees have risen by around 10% for shrimp and fin-fish/cephalopod trawlers, whilst annual advances for licences for pole-and-line tuna vessels and for tuna seiners and longliners have risen by around 33% and 40% respectively. It is estimated that the annual amount to be paid by shipowners in order to obtain their licences will be around EUR 1 700 million.

In terms of fishing opportunities, 19 tuna seiners, 14 pole-and-line vessels and 4 surface longliners will be authorised to fish (with the total annual number of licences for tuna vessels dropping from 70 to 37 by comparison with the previous protocol), as will shrimp trawlers and fin-fish/cephalopod trawlers with a total tonnage of 4 400 GRT per year for each category. However, at the request of the Community, exploratory fishing trips may be carried out under the agreement. If they are conclusive, the parties may decide to award new fishing opportunities to Community vessels.

The following table shows a comparison between the fishing opportunities under the new protocol and under the previous protocol, together with the allocation among the Member States and the average use of these opportunities between 2004 and 2006.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES 2007-2011

Allocation among the Member States	Fishing opportunities 2004/2007	Average use 2004-2006		Fishing opportunities 2007/2011	Difference in fishing opportunities between the old and the new protocol
		No of vessels	No of vessels		No of vessels
Tuna seiners and surface longliners	No of vessels	No of vessels	No of vessels	No of vessels	No of vessels
Spain	20	12	60%	10	-10
France	19	9	47%	9	-10
Italy	1	0	0%	0	-1
Portugal (longliners)	4	0	0%	4	0
Total	44	21	48%	23	-21
Pole-and-line tuna vessels	No of vessels	No of vessels	No of vessels	No of vessels	No of vessels
Spain	21	7	33%	10	-11
France	5	4	80%	4	-1
Total	26	11	42%	14	-12
Fin-fish/cephalopod trawlers	GRT	GRT	GRT	GRT	GRT
Spain	3 143	1 432	46%	3 143	0
Italy	786	138	18%	786	0
Greece	471	0	0%	471	0
Total	4 400	1 570	36%	4 400	0
Shrimp trawlers	GRT	GRT	GRT	GRT	GRT
Spain	1 421	1 111	78%	1 421	0
Italy	1 776	1 011	57%	1 776	0
Greece	137	0	0%	137	0
Portugal	1 066	571	54%	1 066	0
Total	4 400	2 693	61%	4 400	0

With regard to fishing for shrimp and cephalopods, Guinea-Bissau has undertaken to respect the conditions laid down by the fishing plan annexed to the protocol (Annex III), reducing fishing effort and, in particular: maintaining in 2007 the existing agreements with third countries and the European Community; preventing the mobilisation in 2008 and subsequent years of fishing opportunities granted to third countries from 1 January 2007 which have remained unused; not granting any fishing opportunities for chartering in these categories; revoking and formally terminating all agreements with European companies or associations/enterprises. In addition, data sheets 1 and 2 of Annex II, applicable to fin-fish, cephalopod and shrimp trawlers, provide for the possibility of biological recovery periods. With regard to shrimp fishing, Guinea-Bissau has also undertaken to increase the mesh size from 40 to 50 mm, in keeping with existing legislation in the subregion.

A joint committee has been set up comprising representatives of the Community and Guinea-Bissau with the task of monitoring the application of the agreement and, in particular, of monitoring and evaluating the contribution of the partnership agreement to the implementation of Guinea-Bissau's sectoral fisheries policy.

The partnership agreement also provides for encouraging economic, scientific, technical and administrative cooperation in the fisheries and related sectors.

During the period covered by the agreement, the Community and Guinea-Bissau will endeavour to monitor the evolution of resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone. To this end, provision is made for an annual joint scientific meeting to be held alternately in the Community and in Guinea-Bissau.

Community vessels authorised to fish in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone are subject to a strict monitoring system, and their entry into and departure from the zone must be notified to the ministry responsible. Annex I to the protocol contains provisions on the formalities that apply in respect of applications for and the granting of licences, catch reporting arrangements, observers on board, monitoring procedures, the boarding of vessels, trans-shipments and satellite monitoring. Trawlers will be subject to regular technical inspections.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work will apply as of right to seamen signed on by EU vessels.

As regards embarking seamen, Annex I lays down that each trawler owner will undertake to employ a certain number of Guinea-Bissau seamen/fishermen (from three to six seamen depending on the vessel's gross tonnage).

Community vessels are authorised to fish in waters beyond 12 nautical miles from the base lines.

RAPPORTEUR'S CONCLUSIONS

The rapporteur takes the view that the agreement, the protocol and its annexes offer benefits to both parties and make it possible to foster a partnership based on prior consultation, mutual interest, and the principles of responsible fishing and the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau's fishing zones.

The fisheries agreement is also vital for the economic and political stability of Guinea-Bissau, as it helps secure a substantial proportion of the country's budgetary resources.

The rapporteur recommends, on behalf of the Committee on Fisheries, that Parliament approve this proposal for a Council regulation with the amendments tabled, which are intended to highlight the importance of enhancing Parliament's role and the information supplied to it.

29.1.2008

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (COM(2007)0580 – C6-0391/2007 – 2007/0209(CNS))

Draftsman: Josep Borrell Fontelles

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The European Union's development co-operation policy and the common fisheries policy (CFP) must be consistent, complementary and co-ordinated, contributing, as a whole, to poverty reduction and the sustainable development of the countries concerned.

The EU has committed itself to ensuring the sustainability of fisheries worldwide, as defined at the United Nations 2002 summit in Johannesburg, maintaining or restoring stock levels with a view to producing the maximum sustainable yield.

The EU has accepted the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization's "Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries", to promote long-term sustainable fisheries and to affirm that the right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of the living aquatic resources.

The EU's presence in distant fishing grounds is a legitimate objective, but it must be recalled that the interest of European Union's fisheries ought to be protected alongside the interest in developing the nations with which fisheries agreements are signed.

The European Parliament's Development Committee welcomes the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolution of 22 June 2006 on "Fisheries and their social and environmental aspects in developing countries", in particular in so far as it considers that the protection of EU and ACP fishing interests must be coordinated with the sustainable management of fishery resources in economic, social and environmental terms on the one hand, and with the livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on fisheries on the other.

The European Parliament's Development Committee further stresses the reference made in the ACP-EU Fisheries Partnership Agreement to the observation of the Cotonou Agreement; insists that full account must be taken of Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement on human rights, democratic principles, good governance and the rule of law, and welcomes the

guarantees given by the Commission services to the effect that they shall take into consideration the content of Article 9 when negotiating agreements with developing countries, including non-ACP developing countries.

The proposed agreement will repeal and replace the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau which entered into force on 29 August 1980.

The Protocol and the Annex have been concluded for a period of four years from the date on which the appropriate adoption procedures are completed. It shall be tacitly renewed for further four years periods.

The Protocol to the proposed agreement grants fishing possibilities for 23 tuna seiners and surface longliners, from Spain, France and Portugal, and for 14 pole-and-line vessels, from Spain and France, subject to a total of 37 licences.

The financial contribution is fixed at EUR 7 million per year. An additional contribution of EUR 500 000 per year will be specifically targeted for improving the health and hygiene conditions of fishery products. However, this contribution could also be used to support control and surveillance measures.

The European Parliament's Development Committee welcomes the referred link to national initiatives and hope that they may include the financing to local infrastructure projects of processing and marketing of the fish, thus allowing local populations to go beyond subsistence fisheries.

The European Parliament's Development Committee also welcomes the fact that the agreement is proposing to support measures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries and that it fosters scientific and technical cooperation with local authorities. The above mentioned ACP-EU resolution considers that scientific resource assessment must be a precondition for access to fishing, and that an annual evaluation of resources must be a condition for obtaining further fishing permits.

The European Parliament's Development Committee do not endorse the procedure adopted for this agreement because the European Parliament should have played a part in the negotiation mandate, which the Council would have given to the Commission, and should be informed of the development of the negotiations.

Parliament has been consulted about the proposed agreement only in November 2007, five months after the agreement was initialled, with the aim of coming into effect on 16 June 2007. Parliament, even noticing the shorter delay compared with previous similar Agreements, should object and should insist that this procedure is not acceptable.

The Commission and the Council must reach an agreement on the conditions that would give the Parliament a real opportunity to be consulted. In the absence of such circumstance, the Committee on Fisheries should lead Parliament's reaction to the present status quo, including the option of voting against fisheries agreements submitted under present procedure.

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's financial contribution should be used for the development of coastal populations living on fisheries and the creation of small local fish freezing and processing industries;

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

PROCEDURE

Title	Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EC and Guinea-Bissau
References	COM(2007)0580 – C6-0391/2007 – 2007/0209(CNS)
Committee responsible	PECH
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 25.10.2007
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Josep Borrell Fontelles 5.11.2007
Date adopted	29.1.2008
Result of final vote	+: 32 –: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Corina Crețu, Ryszard Czarnecki, Nirj Deva, Koenraad Dillen, Fernando Fernández Martín, Alain Hutchinson, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, José Ribeiro e Castro, Toomas Savi, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca, Johan Van Hecke, Jan Zahradil
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Sorin Frunzăverde, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Atanas Papanizov, Anne Van Lancker, Ralf Walter, Renate Weber
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Catherine Neris

28.2.2008

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (COM(2007)0580 – C6-0391/2007 – 2007/0209(CNS))

Draftswoman: Helga Trüpel

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The EU's agreement with Guinea-Bissau is one of the oldest, dating from 1980. The current version takes the form of a Fisheries Partnership Agreement, as the Commission continues to implement the Council's Conclusions of 2004. It comprises the agreement itself and the associated protocol, which defines the detailed fishing conditions.

The protocol provides access to the waters of Guinea-Bissau, for a period of four years from 16 June 2007 to 15 June 2011:

	2001-2006 protocol (extended to 2007)		2007-2011 protocol	
Purse seiners and surface longliners	40	ES, FR, IT	23	ES, FR, PT
Pole-and-line vessels	30	ES, FR, PT	14	ES, FR
Shrimp fishing	9.600 GRT (amended to 4.400 GRT)	ES, GR, IT, PT	4.400 GRT	ES, IT, GR, PT
Fish and cephalopods	2.800 (amended to 4.400 GRT)	ES, IT, GR	4.400 GRT	ES, IT, GR

There are also provisions for exploratory fishing by EU vessels.

The protocol provides that the EU makes a financial contribution of €7 million per year to Guinea-Bissau consisting of:

- financial contribution due for fishing access, and
- EU support for implementing the Guinea-Bissau fisheries policy

There are two unusual clauses in the protocol. In Article 2.2, it states that if the use of the fishing opportunities by EU vessels improves, the Community could grant an extra amount to Guinea-Bissau, up to €1 million per year. It is not clear why increased use of the opportunities that are already paid for would merit an extra €1 million. Later, in Article 5.1, it states that the fishing opportunities themselves (listed in the table above) could increase, if a scientific assessment shows this to be sustainable, with the financial compensation increasing *pro rata temporis*, up to a doubling of the initial amount of €7 million. It is not clear how these two clauses relate to each other and an explanation was not received from the Commission in time to include in this opinion. Your draftsman would appreciate an explanation during the Committee discussion of the opinion.

An additional contribution of €500.000 per year is to be made to help improve sanitary conditions or to improve surveillance of fishing activities. The Community has reserved the right to suspend this latter amount if results are not forthcoming.

As usual in the new partnership agreements, part of the compensation is assigned to support Guinea-Bissau's multiannual sectoral programme for fisheries "with a view to introducing sustainable and responsible fishing" - in this case, 35% of the compensation or €2.45 million. The programme, details of which are to be jointly agreed by the EU and Guinea-Bissau, is to concentrate on monitoring of fishing activities, research and fisheries management.

There are provisions for the establishment of joint ventures between EU and Guinea-Bissau operators which could, in some cases, absolve the EU ship-owners from paying license fees.

The Commission has proposed a new regulation governing the issuance of authorisations for fishing under these third country agreements (COM(2007)0330). There would be conditions for issuing licences to vessels under the proposed system, so that vessels that do not report their catches, that have committed a serious infringement under Regulation (EC) No 1447/1999, that are on an IUU list (vessels engaged in illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing, see COM(2007)0602) or various other requirements would not be allowed a licence. The Commission is even proposing to be allowed to withhold all licence applications from a given Member State for a particular agreement if that Member State does not fulfil its obligations under the agreement. So the amendment that Budgets Committee has adopted recently about withholding licence applications for vessels that do not report their catches is well-founded and should be continued.

AMENDMENTS

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 3, paragraph 1 a (new)

The Commission shall evaluate each year whether Member States whose vessels operate under the Protocol to the Agreement have complied with reporting requirements. Where this is not the case, the Commission shall withhold their requests for fishing licences for the following year.

Justification

Vessels that do not comply with the most basic requirement, reporting what they catch, should not benefit from financial support from the EU.

Amendment 2
Article 3 a (new)

Article 3a

The Commission shall report annually to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of the multiannual sectoral programme described in Article 7 of the Protocol as well as on compliance by the Member States with reporting requirements.

Justification

In order to evaluate whether the compensation paid by the EU is properly accounted for and does in fact promote the sustainable use of fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau, the Commission should report annually to Parliament.

Amendment 3
Article 3 b (new)

Article 3b

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Before expiry of the Protocol or the beginning of negotiations for its possible replacement, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council an ex post evaluation of the Protocol, including a cost-benefit analysis.

Justification

An evaluation of the current protocol is necessary before new negotiations begin in order to know what changes, if any, should be included in any possible renewal.

PROCEDURE

Title	Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EC and Guinea-Bissau
References	COM(2007)0580 – C6-0391/2007 – 2007/0209(CNS)
Committee responsible	PECH
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 25.10.2007
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Helga Trüpel 20.9.2004
Date adopted	27.2.2008
Result of final vote	+: 15 -: 0:
Members present for the final vote	Reimer Böge, Valdis Dombrovskis, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Ingeborg Gräßle, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta Haug, Monica Maria Iacob-Ridzi, Anne E. Jensen, Vladimír Maňka, Jan Mulder, Cătălin-Ioan Nechifor, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Ralf Walter

PROCEDURE

Title	Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EC and Guinea-Bissau
References	COM(2007)0580 – C6-0391/2007 – 2007/0209(CNS)
Date of consulting Parliament	22.10.2007
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	PECH 25.10.2007
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	DEVE BUDG 25.10.2007 25.10.2007
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos 22.11.2007
Date adopted	28.2.2008
Result of final vote	+: 19 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Alfonso Andria, Elspeth Attwooll, Marie-Hélène Aubert, Iles Braghetto, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Paulo Casaca, Zdzisław Kazimierz Chmielewski, Avril Doyle, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Duarte Freitas, Ioannis Gklavakis, Hélène Goudin, Pedro Guerreiro, Ian Hudghton, Heinz Kindermann, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Marianne Mikko, Philippe Morillon, Seán Ó Neachtain, Struan Stevenson, Catherine Stihler, Margie Sudre, Cornelis Visser
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Vincenzo Aita, Liam Aylward, Reimer Böge, Colm Burke, Giorgio Carollo, Ole Christensen, Dorette Corbey, Paolo Costa, Brian Crowley, Chris Davies, Constantin Dumitriu, Claudio Fava, Béla Glattfelder, Ewa Klant, Carl Lang, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Jan Mulder, Francesco Musotto, Josu Ortuondo Larrea, Neil Parish, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, María Isabel Salinas García, Carl Schlyter, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Thomas Wise
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Francesco Ferrari
Date tabled	29.2.2008