



Plenary sitting

A9-0222/2021

30.6.2021

*****II**

RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING

on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 (06975/3/21 – C9-0224/2021 – 2018/0210(COD))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Gabriel Mato

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ***■*** symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 (06975/3/21 – C9-0224/2021 – 2018/0210(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council position at first reading (06975/3/21 – C9-0224/2021),
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 12 December 2018¹,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 16 May 2018²,
 - having regard to its position at first reading³ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0390),
 - having regard to Article 294(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 74(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on Fisheries (A9-0222/2021),
1. Approves the Council position at first reading;
 2. Approves the joint statement by Parliament, the Council and the Commission annexed to this resolution;
 3. Takes note of the joint statement by the Council and the Commission as well as the Commission statements annexed to this resolution;
 4. Notes that the act is adopted in accordance with the Council position;
 5. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council, in accordance with Article 297(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
 6. Instructs its Secretary-General to sign the act, once it has been verified that all the procedures have been duly completed, and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of

¹ OJ C 110, 22.3.2019, p. 104.

² OJ C 361, 5.10.2018, p. 9.

³ OJ C 116, 31.3.2021, p. 81.

the Council, to arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;

7. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Following the adoption of Parliament's first reading position by the plenary on 4 April 2019, informal negotiations started with the Finnish, Croatian, German and Portuguese Council Presidencies with a view to reaching an early second reading agreement. After seven rounds of trilogue, Parliament's and Council's negotiating team reached agreement on the file on 3 December 2020. The text of the agreement was presented to the PECH Committee for a vote of approval on 22 February 2021, and approved by a large majority. On the basis of the Committee's approval, the Chairman of the Committee engaged himself in a letter to the Chair of Coreper dated 25 February 2021 to recommend to the plenary to approve Council's position at first reading without amendment. Following legal-linguistic verification, Council adopted its first reading position confirming the agreement on 14 June 2021.

As Council's first reading position is in conformity with the agreement reached in the trilogues, the Rapporteur recommends to the Committee to accept it without further amendments. The Rapporteur would like to highlight in particular the following elements of the compromise:

The new European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for 2021-2027 provides a support package of €6.108 billion to contribute to sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and processing, support a sustainable blue economy and coastal communities and promote international ocean governance. In line with the Green Deal, actions under the fund will contribute to the overall objective to dedicate 30% of funds to climate action.

The new fund moves away from rigid eligibility rules, only establishing conditions for certain fleet subsidies. Under the new approach, operations not explicitly forbidden are eligible, thus granting greater legal certainty to Member States and fishers.

The final text allows financing investments that will improve energy efficiency, safety and working conditions on EU's fishing vessels, while ensuring that the sector is sustainable. It also promotes generational renewal in the profession by supporting the first acquisition of vessels by young fishers. All the necessary safeguards to prevent that EU subsidies risk harmful effects leading to overcapacity and overfishing are included in the text.

One of the European Parliament's successes is that the new EMFAF will particularly support small-scale coastal fisheries. Member States shall take into account in their programme the specific needs of small-scale coastal fishing and describe the types of actions they envisage for its development. The same preferential treatment is reserved to fishers without vessels and shellfish gatherers.

For vessels up to 24 metres, the following operations are eligible: (i) the replacement of engines with the aim of increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions; (ii) incentivise access to the sector by supporting the first acquisition of second-hand vessels by young fishers; (iii) operations that require more space on board for the safety or well-being of the crew.

The new fund will also support European aquaculture by encouraging investments aiming at strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production while ensuring that the activities

are environmentally sustainable. A greater focus on aquaculture is reflected in its inclusion in the name of the fund. It will also promote marketing, quality and value added of fisheries and aquaculture products, as well as processing.

Continuity of substantial financial support for fisheries control and enforcement, including the purchase, installation and management of tracking and electronic systems for all vessels used for control purposes is also ensured.

Furthermore a crisis management scheme is introduced to allow emergency support to the fishery and aquaculture sectors in case of a significant disruption of the market, due to, for example, a health crisis like the Covid pandemic.

The specific constraints of outermost regions are also taken into account: the EMFAF will continue providing compensation for the additional costs these regions face due to their location and insularity. It should be possible for Member States to grant additional financing through State aid for the implementation of this compensation. In addition, a higher aid intensity rate than the one that applies to other operations and regions will be applied.

Finally, the new EMFAF includes provisions on promoting global ocean governance.

ANNEX

Joint Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission

The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission recognise the need to urgently advance action on the protection and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity. The three institutions agree that tackling biodiversity loss, protecting and restoring ecosystems and/or maintaining them in good condition will require significant public and private investment at national and European level and that a significant proportion of the EMFAF expenditures should be invested in biodiversity. The three institutions agree that the European Commission will work with Member States, in the context of the programming exercise for the EMFAF 2021-2027, to reach the overall ambition of biodiversity spending highlighted in recital 15.

Joint Statement by the Council and the Commission

The Council and the Commission remain committed to trying to avoid an interruption of fishing activities under Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements by striving towards the timely renewal of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and their implementing Protocols.

Statement by the Commission

The Commission has accepted the eligibility of investments on board related to fisheries control and enforcement, be they mandatory or not, and for all Union fishing vessels. The Commission considers that these investments will enable Member States to make full use of the financial resources available in the EMFAF for control and enforcement, to fulfil their obligations under the Control Regulation and other rules of the Common Fisheries Policy and to substantially improve the culture of compliance in the fishing sector. Moreover, the Commission expects that – in the context of the ongoing review of the Control Regulation – the European Parliament and the Council will support the modernisation of the existing control tools and the use of new technologies as proposed by the Commission. This means in particular introducing smart solutions for the tracking and catch reporting of small scale vessels, installing systems for the continuous monitoring of engine power, moving to fully digitised traceability systems covering all fishery products (fresh, frozen and processed), and introducing mandatory remote electronic monitoring systems on board fishing vessels and based on risk assessment, as the only effective means to control the application of the landing obligation and the bycatch and discard of sensitive species.

Statement by the Commission

The Commission takes note of the difficulties encountered up to now to grant state aid for the renewal of the fleets in the outermost regions. With a view to the sustainable development of those regions, the Commission will endeavour to assist the Member States to improve the collection of scientific data necessary to comply with the eligibility condition set in the State aid

guidelines with a view to facilitating the application of the guidelines for the examination of State aid to the fishery and aquaculture sector in the Outermost Regions.

Statement by the Commission

The European Commission, in the context of the programming exercise for the EMFAF 2021-2027, will actively encourage Member States to maximise the use of measures included in their programmes, in particular under Article 25 (protection of biodiversity and ecosystems), to reach the overall ambition of providing an annual spending under the MFF to tackle biodiversity loss, protect and restore ecosystems and maintain ecosystems in good conditions as follows: 7,5% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027. The Commission will regularly monitor the level of this spending on the basis of the total eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiaries to the managing authority and on data submitted by the Member State. Where the monitoring shows insufficient progress towards reaching the overall ambition, the Commission will actively engage with Member States in the annual review meeting in order to adopt remedial measures, including a programme amendment.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
References	06975/3/2021 – C9-0224/2021 – 2018/0210(COD)
Date of Parliament's first reading – P number	4.4.2019 T8-0343/2019
Commission proposal	COM(2018)0390 - C8-0270/2018
Receipt of Council position at first reading announced in plenary	24.6.2021
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	PECH 24.6.2021
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Gabriel Mato 12.2.2020
Previous rapporteurs	Gabriel Mato, Francisco José Millán Mon, Gabriel Mato
Discussed in committee	2.10.2019 25.6.2020
Date adopted	28.6.2021
Result of final vote	+: 21 –: 5 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Isabel Carvalhais, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Rosanna Conte, Rosa D'Amato, Giuseppe Ferrandino, João Ferreira, Søren Gade, Francisco Guerreiro, Niclas Herbst, France Jamet, Pierre Karleskind, Francisco José Millán Mon, Grace O'Sullivan, Manuel Pizarro, Caroline Roose, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Ruža Tomašić, Peter van Dalen, Theodoros Zagorakis
Substitutes present for the final vote	Valentino Grant, Jan Huitema, Petros Kokkalis
Date tabled	30.6.2021

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

21	+
ECR	Bert-Jan Ruissen, Ruža Tomašić
ID	Rosanna Conte, Valentino Grant, France Jamet
PPE	Maria da Graça Carvalho, Peter van Dalen, Niclas Herbst, Francisco José Millán Mon, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Theodoros Zagorakis
Renew	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Søren Gade, Jan Huitema, Pierre Karleskind
S&D	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, Isabel Carvalhais, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Manuel Pizarro
The Left	Petros Kokkalis

5	-
The Left	João Ferreira
Verts/ALE	Rosa D'Amato, Francisco Guerreiro, Grace O'Sullivan, Caroline Roose

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention