



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2010/0287(NLE)

3.3.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of a new Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros
(15572/2010 – C7-0020/2011 – 2010/0287(NLE))

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi

PA_Legapp

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The fisheries agreement between the European Community and the Comoros expired in December 2010. The new protocol is valid from 2011 to 2013 and is to be provisionally applied pending the European Parliament's consent procedure.

According to Article 43(2) and Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Parliament can either consent or decline to consent.

In terms of content, the agreement's characteristics are as follows (figures in euro):

Type of expenditure	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
tonnage equivalent to 4 850 tonnes/year at EUR 65/t	315 250	315 250	315 250	945 750
implementation of sectoral fisheries policy in the Comoros	300 000	300 000	300 000	900 000
TOTAL	615 250	615 250	615 250	1 845 750

Following a joint evaluation of stocks, rights to readjust fishing quotas may be granted under certain conditions.

The EU contribution will consist of the following elements:

- an annual sum of EUR 315 250 for fishing rights of 4 850 tonnes per year (EUR 65 per tonne),
- a sum of EUR 300 000 for support and implementation of the sectoral fisheries policy in the Comoros,

giving a total of EUR 615 250 per year,

making in total an amount of EUR 1 845 750 for the three years of the agreement.

There is no upper limit for additional catches of tuna by Community vessels. Each additional tonne will cost EUR 65. Where the quantity caught by Community vessels exceeds the quantities corresponding to double the total annual amount, the amount exceeding that limit will not be paid until the following year.

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2010 ranks the Union of the Comoros at 154 out of 178 countries. The Commission needs to verify to what extent monies have been and will be spent as agreed with the Union of the Comoros.

The BUDG Committee therefore believes the following issues should be taken into account

during the implementation of the agreement:

- an evaluation should be made each year to establish whether Member States whose vessels operate under the protocol to the agreement have complied with catch reporting requirements; where this is not the case, the Commission should refuse those countries' requests for fishing licences for the following year;
- an annual report should be submitted to 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;
- an ex post evaluation of the protocol, including a cost-benefit analysis, should be submitted to Parliament and the Council before the protocol expires or before negotiations for its possible replacement begin.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent to conclusion of the agreement, and asks that the following points be duly taken into account by the European Commission and by the Union of the Comoros during implementation of the agreement:

- (a) an evaluation should be made each year to establish whether Member States whose vessels operate under the protocol to the agreement have complied with catch reporting requirements; where this is not the case, the Commission should refuse those countries' requests for fishing licences for the following year;
- (b) an annual report should be submitted to 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;
- (c) an ex post evaluation of the protocol, including a cost-benefit analysis, should be submitted to Parliament and the Council before the protocol expires or before negotiations for its possible replacement begin.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.3.2011
Result of final vote	+: 33 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Marta Andreasen, Francesca Balzani, James Elles, Göran Färm, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Estelle Grelier, Carl Haglund, Jutta Haug, Monika Hohlmeier, Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska, Ivailo Kalfin, Alain Lamassoure, Giovanni La Via, Vladimír Maňka, Barbara Matera, Miguel Portas, Dominique Riquet, Helga Trüpel, Derek Vaughan, Jacek Włosowicz
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Richard Ashworth, Frédéric Daerden, Peter Šťastný
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Elisabeth Jeggle, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Nuno Teixeira, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa