



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2010/0355(NLE)

2.5.2011

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 Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (COM(2010)0735 – C7-0000/2011 – 2010/0355(NLE))

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi

PA_Legapp

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Fisheries Agreement between the European Community and São Tomé and Príncipe expired on 31 May 2010 after a three-year term. The Agreement provides for the possibility of renewal for a three-year period and this is currently being applied provisionally 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:

Type of expenditure	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
tonnage equivalent to 7000 tonnes/year at €65/t	€455 000	€455 000	€455 000	€1 365 000
implementation of sectoral fisheries policy in São Tomé and Príncipe	€227 500	€227 500	€227 500	682 500€
Subtotal	€682 500	€682 500	€682 500	€2 047 500
Administrative expenditure				€206 000
TOTAL including administrative expenditure	€682 500	€682 500	€682 500	€2 253 500

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 €455 000 for fishing rights of 7000 tonnes per year (€65 per tonne);
 - an annual sum of €227 500 for the support and implementation of São Tomé and Príncipe's sectoral fisheries policy;
 - a budget of €206 000 from 2011 to 2013 to provide for administrative expenditure;
- giving a total of €682 500 per year, not counting administrative expenditure;
- making in total an amount of €2 253 500 for the three years of the agreement, including administrative expenditure.

There is no upper limit for additional catches of tuna by Community vessels. Each additional tonne will cost €65. Where the quantity caught by Community vessels exceeds the quantities corresponding to double the total annual amount, the amount exceeding that limit will be paid only the following year.

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2010 ranks São Tomé and Príncipe at 101 out of 178 countries. The Commission needs to verify to what extent the monies were and will be spent as agreed with São Tomé and Príncipe.

The Committee on Budgets 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 catch 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 São Tomé and Príncipe 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 catch 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	2.5.2011
Result of final vote	+: 21 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Marta Andreasen, Reimer Böge, Lajos Bokros, Isabelle Durant, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Estelle Grelier, Carl Haglund, Jutta Haug, Anne E. Jensen, Ivailo Kalfin, Jan Kozłowski, Giovanni La Via, Vladimír Maňka, Barbara Matera, Dominique Riquet, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Angelika Werthmann
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jürgen Klute