



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Budgets*

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**2010/0335(NLE)**

3.5.2011

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Seychelles  
(17238/2010 - C7-0031/2011 – 2010/0335(NLE))

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The new protocol covers a period of three years from adoption of the Council decision on the signing and provisional application of the protocol, and after expiry of the current Protocol on 17 January 2011. The new protocol is at present being applied provisionally pending Parliament's consent procedure.

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

As to its content, the agreement's main points are as follows:

Type of expenditure	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
Equivalent tonnage 52 000 tonnes/year at €65/t	€3 380 000	€3 380 000	€3 380 000	€10 140 000
Implementation of the sectoral fisheries policy in the Seychelles	€2 220 000	€2 220 000	€2 220 000	€6 660 000
	€5 600 000	€5 600 000	€5 600 000	€16 800 000
Administrative expenditure				€373 900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€5 600 000</b>	<b>€5 600 000</b>	<b>€5 600 000</b>	<b>€17 173 900</b>

Following a joint assessment of the state of stocks, opportunities to readjust the fishing quotas may be granted, on certain conditions.

The financial contribution paid by the European Union will comprise the following elements:

- an annual amount of € 3 380 000 for fishing rights applicable to 52 000 tonnes per year (€ 65 per tonne);
- an annual amount of € 2 220 000 for support and implementation of the sectoral fisheries policy in the Seychelles;

totalling € 5 600 000 per year, excluding administrative expenditure.

This comes to a total of € 17 173 900 over 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. If the quantity caught by Community vessels exceeds quantities equivalent to double the total annual amount, the sum due for the quantity exceeding that limit will not be paid until the following year.

According to Transparency International's 2010 index of state corruption, the Seychelles

ranks 49th out of 178 countries. It is important that the Commission should verify the extent to which the appropriations have been and will be used as agreed with the Seychelles.

The BUDG Committee therefore believes the following issues should be taken into account when implementing the agreement:

- ascertaining each year whether the Member States whose vessels are operating under the Protocol annexed to the agreement have complied with the provisions on the declaration of catches. Where the provisions are not complied with the Commission should refuse applications for fishing authorisation submitted by those countries for the following year;
- submitting a report each year to Parliament and the Council on the results of the multiannual sectoral programme described in Article 3 of the Protocol and on compliance by the Member States with the requirement to declare catches;
- submitting to Parliament and the Council, before the Protocol expires or before negotiations begin on its possible renewal, an ex-post assessment of the Protocol including a cost-benefit analysis.

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 wishes the following points to be duly taken into account by the Commission and the Seychelles when implementing the agreement:

- (a) ascertaining each year whether the Member States whose vessels are operating under the Protocol annexed to the agreement have complied with the provisions on the declaration of catches. Where the provisions are not complied with the Commission should refuse applications for fishing authorisation submitted by those countries for the following year;
- (b) submitting a report each year to Parliament and the Council on the results of the multiannual sectoral programme described in Article 7 of the Protocol and on compliance by the Member States with the requirement to declare catches;
- (c) submitting to Parliament and the Council, before the Protocol expires or before negotiations begin on its possible renewal, an ex-post assessment of the Protocol including a cost-benefit analysis.

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The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to propose approval of the Commission proposal.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	2.5.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 21 -: 1 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	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
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Jürgen Klute