



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Budgets*

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**2011/0257(NLE)**

6.12.2011

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol agreed between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two parties currently in force (COM(2011)0603 – 2011/0257(NLE))

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi

PA\_Leg\_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The new Protocol covers a period of one year from 16 June 2011. It renews the terms of the previous Protocol and contains an additional clause allowing its suspension if human rights and democratic principles are not respected.

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

The new Protocol is in keeping with the two Parties' concern to strengthen partnership and cooperation in the fisheries sector using all the financial instruments available. To this end, it is recalled that there is a need to create a framework which is favourable to the development of investment.

The overall financial contribution of the Protocol of EUR 7 500 000 over the whole period is based on: (a) a maximum of 27 authorisations for tuna vessels and 8 800 GRT for trawlers, for a financial contribution of EUR 4 550 000 and (b) support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau amounting to EUR 2 950 000. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy.

In terms of content, the Agreement's characteristics are as follows:

Type of expenditure	2011	2012	TOTAL
Preservation and management of natural resources	EUR 7 500 000		EUR 7 500 000
Administrative expenditure	EUR 79 900	EUR 79 900	EUR 159 800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 7 579 900</b>	<b>EUR 79 900</b>	<b>EUR 7 659 800</b>

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

The EU contribution will consist of the following elements:

- an annual amount of EUR 4 550 000 for fishing rights applicable to 70 000 tonnes per year (EUR 65 per tonne);
- an annual amount of EUR 2 950 000 for support and implementation of the sectoral fisheries policy in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau;

making a total of EUR 7 500 000 per year, not including administrative expenditure.

Including administrative expenditure, it comes to a total of EUR 7 659 800 in respect of the Protocol in its entirety.

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

when implementing 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 the provisions are not complied with the Commission should refuse applications for fishing authorisation submitted by those countries for the following year;
- a report should be submitted 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;
- 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.

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The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	5.12.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 22 -: 1 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Isabelle Durant, Göran Färm, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Ivars Godmanis, Carl Haglund, Lucas Hartong, Jutta Haug, Anne E. Jensen, Ivailo Kalfin, Sergej Kozlík, Jan Kozłowski, Alain Lamassoure, Giovanni La Via, Vladimír Maňka, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Derek Vaughan, Angelika Werthmann, Jacek Włosowicz
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Edit Herczog, Jan Mulder, Georgios Stavrakakis