



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2012/0238(NLE)

6.3.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol agreed between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two parties currently in force (14164/1/2012 – C7-0408/2012 – 2012/0238(NLE))

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On the basis of a mandate from the Council¹, the European Commission has conducted negotiations with the Republic of Madagascar with a view to renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Madagascar. At the end of those negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 10 May 2012. The new protocol covers a period of two years from the date of its signature.

The primary objective behind the Protocol is to define the fishing opportunities for tuna vessels from the European Union in the waters of Madagascar, in line with scientific advice and other resolutions issued by the relevant Regional Fisheries Organisation, namely the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

The overall aim is to reinforce cooperation between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar, thereby consolidating the partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in Madagascar's fishing zone, in the interests of both Parties.

The new Protocol provides for a total financial contribution of EUR 3 050 000 for the whole period for preservation and management of natural resources. This amount corresponds to: a) an annual amount for access to the Malagasy fishing zone of EUR 975 000 equivalent to a reference tonnage of 15 000 tonnes per year, and b) EUR 550 000 per year in respect of developing the sectoral fisheries policy within the Republic of Madagascar. This sectoral support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy.

The annual financial contribution paid by the budget of the Union is therefore 1 525 000 EUR per annum.

Type of expenditure	2013	2014	TOTAL
Preservation and management of natural resources	1 525 000€	1 525 000€	3 050 000€
TOTAL	1 525 000€	1 525 000€	3 050 000€

Measures towards Madagascar under the Cotonou Agreement

Following the Coup d'Etat of 17 March 2009, the EU suspended development cooperation with Madagascar (Council Decision 2010/371/EU of 6 June 2010) in conformity with art. 96 of the Cotonou agreement. A political dialogue has since been put in place with the Malagasy Government, but failed to agree on measures to reinstate democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law in the country.

Council Decision 2012/749/EU of 3 December 2012 acknowledged progress in the establishment of the transition institutions and in the electoral process, but estimated that the roadmap for transition has not been fully implemented. The Council Decision therefore

decides that the application of Council Decision 2010/371/EU be extended until credible elections have taken place.

Given that Madagascar is currently subject to measures under the Cotonou Agreement it is somehow surprising that the Council gave a mandate to the Commission to negotiate a new protocol last April. Article 8(c) of the new protocol establishes that the financial contribution shall be reviewed or suspended “*if the European Union notes that there has been a violation of the essential and fundamental human rights provided for in Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement and following the procedure provided for in articles 8 and 96 of that Agreement. In this case, all European Union fishing vessel activities in the waters of Madagascar shall be suspended.*” Article 9(f) establishes that the implementation of the protocol may be suspended for the same reasons.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament defer consent until such time as democratic elections have taken place in Madagascar and the democratic order has been reinstated.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	4.3.2013
Result of final vote	+: 27 -: 6 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Marta Andreasen, Richard Ashworth, Reimer Böge, Zuzana Brzobohatá, Jean-Luc Dehaene, Göran Färm, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Jens Geier, Ivars Godmanis, Ingeborg Gräßle, Lucas Hartong, Jutta Haug, Monika Hohlmeier, Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska, Anne E. Jensen, Ivailo Kalfin, Jan Kozłowski, Giovanni La Via, Claudio Morganti, Vojtěch Mynář, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Dominique Riquet, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Derek Vaughan, Angelika Werthmann
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Edit Herczog, Jürgen Klute, María Muñoz De Urquiza, Georgios Stavrakakis, Nils Torvalds