



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2012/0215(NLE)

25.2.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on conclusion of a new Fishery Partnership Agreement and of a new Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (13501/2012 – C7-0007/2013 – 2012/0215(NLE))

Rapporteur: François Alfonsi

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On the basis of relevant Council mandate¹, the Commission on behalf of the European Union negotiated with the Republic of Mauritius in view of initialling a new Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius. Following these negotiations, a new Fishery Partnership Agreement and a new Protocol were initialled on 23 February 2012.

The new agreement covers a period of six years from the date of signature and it is tacitly renewable for successive periods of three years.

The overall objective is to strengthen cooperation between the EU and the Republic of Mauritius for the establishment of a partnership framework for the development of a sustainable fisheries policy and responsible exploitation of fisheries resources Mauritian fishing zone, in the interest of both parties.

The new Protocol provides for a total financial contribution of EUR 2 103 000 for the whole period and EUR 1 980 000 for the whole period for preservation and management of natural resources. This amount corresponds to: a) EUR 357 500 per year equivalent to an annual reference tonnage of 5 500 tonnes, and b) EUR 302 500 per year, corresponding to the additional envelop paid by the Union to support Mauritius fisheries and maritime policy.

The annual financial contribution paid by the budget of the Union is therefore 681 000 EUR for the first two years and 741 000 EUR for the final year.

Type of expenditure	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Preservation and management of natural resources	660 000 €	660 000 €	660 000€	1 980 000€
Administrative expenditure	21 000€	21 000€	81 000€	123 000€
TOTAL	681 000€	681 000€	741 000€	2 103 000€

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;

¹ Council Decision n° 15921/2011 of 23.01.2012.

- 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.

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

Date adopted	20.2.2013
Result of final vote	+: 29 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Marta Andreasen, Richard Ashworth, Zuzana Brzobohatá, Jean Louis Cottigny, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Lucas Hartong, Jutta Haug, Monika Hohlmeier, Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska, Anne E. Jensen, Ivailo Kalfin, Jan Kozłowski, Claudio Morganti, Jan Mulder, Vojtěch Mynář, Alda Sousa, László Surján, Derek Vaughan
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Alexander Alvaro, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Jürgen Klute, Peter Šťastný, Georgios Stavrakakis, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Nils Torvalds
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Bill Newton Dunn