

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2005/0276(CNS)

22.3.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the United Republic of Tanzania on fishing in Tanzania's fishing zone
(COM(2005)0693 – C6-0021/2006 – 2005/0276(CNS))

Draftsman: Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Union's development co-operation policy and the common fisheries policy (CFP) must be consistent, complementary and co-ordinated, contributing together to poverty reduction in the countries concerned and to their sustainable development.

The EU has committed itself to ensure the sustainable character of fisheries worldwide, defined at the Johannesburg summit, maintaining or restoring stock levels with a view to producing the maximum sustainable yield.

The EU has accepted the FAO "Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries".

The EU presence in distant fishing grounds is a legitimate objective, but one must remind that the interest of Union's fisheries ought to be protected alongside the interest in developing the nations with whom agreements are signed.

The present agreement should have been adapted so to observe the integrated framework for Fisheries Partnership Agreements with third countries (see EP's A5-0303/2003).

The fact that both parts agreed on the text in October 2003 and finalised it in June 2004, and the EP is consulted in January 2006, has left sufficient time for an update of the negotiated text. The pretext of saying that "new elements, in respect to a 'classical' access agreement have been introduced" can not justify not having brought the text in line with the Partnership agreements and is unacceptable from our point of view.

This agreement goes along the lines of all similar agreements signed with other nations in the area (Indian Ocean), therefore it can contribute to the promotion of regional development.

The agreement has been concluded for an initial period of three years from the date the appropriate adoption procedures are accomplished.

The protocol grants fishing possibilities for tuna seiners from Spain, Italy and France and 31 surface longliners, boats coming from Spain and Portugal.

The financial compensation is fixed at 600,000 Euros per year and covers a catch weight of 8000 tons per year.

Part of the financial contribution (390.000 Euros) will address targeted actions, such as control and surveillance, institutional support and development of local small scale fisheries (115.000 Euros).

We welcome this last targeted measure and hope that it includes also financing to local infrastructure projects of processing and marketing of the fish, thus allowing local populations to go beyond subsistence fisheries.

Parliament should have had a say in the negotiation mandate presumably given by Council to the Commission, and be informed of the development of the negotiations.

Parliament is consulted almost 20 months after the agreement was initialled. No explanation for the delay in the consultation process has been given.

Parliament should protest and consider once more this being disrespect.

It is time that Parliament changes the present situation regarding fisheries agreements with third countries. Commission and Council must reach a common agreement on conditions that could give a useful meaning to Parliament's consultation. If this should not be the case the Fisheries Committee should lead Parliaments reaction to the present status quo, including the final argument of voting against fisheries agreements submitted under present circumstances.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 2 a (new)

2a. The Community's financial compensation should also be used for the development of coastal populations living on fisheries and the creation of small local fish freezing and processing industries;

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Council regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the United Republic of Tanzania on fishing in Tanzania's fishing zone
References	COM(2005)0693 – C6-0021/2006 – 2005/0276(CNS)
Committee responsible	PECH
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 1.2.2006
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Draftsman Date appointed	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez 25.1.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	13.3.2006 21.3.2006
Date adopted	21.3.2006
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrietus van den Berg, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Thierry Cornillet, Nirj Deva, Fernando Fernández Martín, Michael Gahler, Hélène Goudin, Filip Andrzej Kacmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Maria Martens, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, Horst Posdorf, Toomas Savi, Pierre Schapira, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Mauro Zani
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Manolis Mavrommatis, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	