



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Development*

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**2011/0097(NLE)**

30.8.2011

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of a new protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cape Verde  
(COM(2011)0228 – C7-0000/2011 – 2011/0097(NLE))

Rapporteur: Charles Goerens

PA\_Leg\_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Protocol to the Fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cape Verde will expire on 31 August 2011. The new Protocol will cover a period of three years starting from 1 September 2011.

In accordance with Article 43, paragraph 2 and Article 218, paragraph 6(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union the European Parliament can either consent or decline to consent. The possibility to refuse the consent must be seen as a last resort tool linked to the evidence that the scope of the agreement is not duly respected, unless the Parliament does not agree with the conclusion of a protocol for other reasons.

According to the draft agreement the Parties commit to a framework of partnership, facilitating the development of a sustainable fishing policy and responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the Republic of Cape Verde fishing area, in the interests of both Parties.

The text of 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.

The financial contribution amounts to € 1 305 000 over the three year duration of this Protocol. This amount corresponds to:

- € 325 000 per year equivalent to an annual reference tonnage of 5 000 tonnes per year for 74 vessels; and
- € 110 000 per year, corresponding to the additional envelop paid by the EU to support the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Cape Verde. This represents an increase of € 50 000 (+ 13%) in comparison with the previous Protocol (2006-11).

The Republic of Cape Verde will thus receive €100 per tonne of tuna caught (of which EUR 65/t is to be paid from the EU budget and EUR 35/t is to be borne by the operators), with payment for a minimum of 5.000 tonnes guaranteed per year, plus additional funds for developing the national fisheries sector.

To this must be added the sums paid by the ship-owners: licence fees of € 4 375 for a tuna seiner and € 3 150 for a longliner and € 450 per pole-and-line vessel.

If the overall quantity of catches by European Union vessels in Cape Verde waters exceeds 5000 tonnes per year, the financial contribution will be increased by € 65 per tonne paid by the EU and € 35 per tonne paid by the ship-owners.

Where the quantities caught by Community vessels come to more than double the total annual amount, the amount due for the quantity exceeding that limit is to be paid the following year.

The Committee on Development is not satisfied with the fact that the annual amount for access to the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of Cape Verde (325.000 eur) be the same as

that paid during the implementation of the previous protocol, although it takes note of the increase in the specific amount per year for supporting the implementation of the sectoral fisheries policy of Cape Verde.

The Committee on Development applauds the fact that this protocol introduces new provisions whereby the payment of the financial contribution or even the implementation of the protocol can be suspended in cases of violation of human rights and democratic principles.

Finally, the Committee on Development criticises the lack of transparency of the Commission as regards the classification by that Institution of the ex-post impact assessments of the protocols carried out by an external contractor. This committee takes the view that access to this kind of documents is paramount to the effective exercise of its legitimate democratic scrutiny duties and therefore endeavours to keep on its cooperation with the Committee on Fisheries with the aim of putting an end to this practice.

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The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament consents to the conclusion of the Protocol.

The Committee on Development considers that the Commission should duly take into account the following points during the implementation of the Agreement:

- (a) the transparency of the procedures for identifying the total catches should be improved along with the measures to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in particular by improving infrastructure for the monitoring and control of fishing activities in the Republic of Cape Verde Exclusive Economic Zone in order to ensure that fishing is responsible and sustainable;
- (b) the Joint Committee provided for in the Protocol should ensure that the integrity of the entire mechanism of the Agreement, in terms of corruption problems, is beyond doubt;
- (c) the Joint Committee should also strive to take measures to promote more landings and visits to the ports of Cape Verde and to enhance local employment and other economic activities and partnerships in the fisheries sector;
- (d) the accountability of the local government should be reinforced and the local government must also guarantee the improvement of living conditions for local fishermen, the development of local, sustainable, artisanal fisheries and fish-processing industries and compliance with environmental standards;
- (e) minimum standards and conditions that are agreed at a regional level, such as those concerning boarding by observers and reporting requirements, must be respected;
- (f) annual reports on the implementation of the Agreement – and in particular of the multiannual sectoral programme provided for in Article 3 of the protocol – should be drawn up and sent to Parliament and to the Council in order to promote transparency and to make certain that the additional budget supporting the sectoral fisheries policy is indeed used for this purpose.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	29.8.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 22 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Véronique De Keyser, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, András Gyürk, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Franziska Keller, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Norbert Neuser, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theocharous, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Pino Arlacchi, Emma McClarkin, Patrizia Toia
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Josefa Andrés Barea, Reimer Böge, Derek Vaughan