



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2011/0378(NLE)

28.3.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Mozambique
(18059/2011 – C7-0028/2012 – 2011/0378(NLE))

Rapporteur: Gabriele Zimmer

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Mozambique expired on 31 December 2011. The new Protocol will cover a period of three years starting from the adoption of the Council decision on the Protocol's signing and provisional application.

In accordance with Article 43, paragraph 2 and Article 218, paragraph 6(a) of the TFEU the European Parliament can either consent or decline to consent to the conclusion of this Protocol.

Mozambique is a least developed country, notwithstanding sustained GDP growth over the past decade. Development indicators have improved in recent years, but most of the Millennium Development Goals will not be attained unless the government and donors reinforce their commitment over the next five years. According to government data, aid disbursements represented 10.7% of GDP in 2010. Donors still funded 47.8% of the government budget in 2010.

About 80% of its population work in agriculture or fisheries. The fishing sector contributes about 4% to the GDP and represents 13% of the export income. Some 85% of Mozambique's total fisheries production comes from artisanal fishermen. Small scale fishing provides a living, directly or indirectly, for about 300,000 people.

The new Protocol reduces the fishing opportunities (75 fishing vessels as compared to 89 in the previous Protocol), and the fishing effort (8 000 tonnes as compared to 10 000 tonnes in the previous Protocol). The Commission, based on the findings of the ex-post evaluation of the current Protocol ordered to an external contractor, affirms that this is due to the need to strike a better balance between EU payments and real EU fishing activity in the zone.

The financial contribution amounts to € 2 940 000 over the three year duration of this Protocol. This amount corresponds to:

- € 520 000 per year equivalent to an annual reference tonnage of 8 000 tonnes for 75 vessels,
- € 460 000 per year, corresponding to the additional envelop paid by the Union to support Mozambique fisheries and maritime policy.

The Republic of Mozambique thus receives €65 per tonne of tuna caught plus additional funds for developing the national fisheries sector as well as advances and fees payable by ship-owners.

Your rapporteur welcomes the fact that amount allocated under the new Protocol to support Mozambique fisheries and maritime policy is higher (460.000 eur, as compared to 250 000 eur) than under the previous Protocol.

Mozambique shall be responsible for the management of the envelop designed to support Mozambique fisheries and maritime policy, based on the identification by the two Parties of the objectives to be achieved and the annual and multiannual programming to attain them, in

particular as regards the sound management of fisheries resources, strengthening scientific research and the monitoring capacity of the competent Mozambican authorities, and improving production conditions for fishery products in order to increase the involvement of Mozambique in exploiting its own fisheries within its EEZ.

This new Protocol will coincide with the approval by the Mozambican cabinet of a bill on fisheries intended to make fishing more sustainable and to guarantee greater respect for fishery resources. The bill, which seeks to overhaul the 1990 fisheries law, seeks to encourage activities that complement fishing, such as processing.

Your rapporteur considers that the Protocol can contribute to a better management and conservation of fisheries resources through financial support for the implementation of the programmes adopted at national level by Mozambique.

Your rapporteur welcomes the new provisions in this Protocol whereby the payment of the financial contribution can be suspended in cases of violation of human rights and democratic principles and if Mozambique fails to work towards responsible and sustainable fishing.

Your rapporteur welcomes the provisions on signing-on of local seamen and on salaries, working conditions and rights applying to them, but takes the view that the number of local seamen onboard EU vessels authorised under this Protocol is insufficient to make a real contribution to improving the employment situation of Mozambican seamen. Your rapporteur invites the Joint Committee to take practical steps to increase EU vessels calls at Mozambican ports thus increasing local employment, which should be in agreement with ILO standards, and business opportunities.

Your rapporteur takes the view that the Joint Committee provided for in Article 9 of the Agreement should endeavour to assign a fair share of the envelop to support Mozambique fisheries and maritime policy for the development of coastal populations living on fisheries and the creation of small enterprises at local level.

Your rapporteur is concerned at the fact that policy support measures under the FPA were not considered until almost two years into the Agreement and apparently were not integrated within a wider matrix of fisheries policy measures supported by the State budget and other international donors. Your rapporteur is also of the view that more transparency is needed as regards the conclusions of the meetings of the Joint Committee and on the results of the multiannual sectoral programme described in Article 3 of the Protocol.

Your rapporteur is concerned regarding the non-submission of catch reports in accordance with the Protocol, as found by the ex-post evaluation. Finally, your rapporteur would ask the Mozambican authorities the same level of transparency for access arrangements for non-EU vessels as provided for EU vessels under the current FPA.

As a conclusion, your rapporteur takes the view that it is in the interest of both parties to conclude a new Protocol that would prolong the partnership between Mozambique and the EU.

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

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 and reporting the total catches should be improved along with the measures to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in particular by improving the infrastructure for the monitoring and control of fishing activities in the Republic of Mozambique Exclusive Economic Zone, thereby ensuring that fishing is responsible and sustainable;
- (b) sustainable fishing practices should be promoted by ensuring that all fishing activities under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement meet the same sustainability criteria as fishing activities in EU waters;
- (c) access by EU vessels to the surplus of fisheries resources should be limited in accordance with the maximum sustainable yield after food security has been guaranteed and the nutrition needs of the local populations have been met; to this end, the Commission is called on to ensure that EU vessels only catch the surplus of the concerned fish stocks that is not able to be caught by the Mozambique fishing sector;
- (d) the integrity of the entire mechanism of the Agreement, in terms of corruption problems, should be beyond doubt;
- (e) 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 and health standards;
- (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 the Parliament and the Council and made publicly available in order to promote transparency and to make certain that the budget supporting the sectoral fisheries policy is indeed used for this purpose as well as to ensure policy coherence for development;
- (g) both the spirit and the letter of the exclusivity clause should be complied with;
- (h) practical steps should be taken to increase the number of calls by EU vessels at Mozambican ports, thus increasing local employment and business opportunities. In particular, efforts to support the processing industry and fleet capacities should be made in order to help Mozambique to exploit its fishing area on its own;
- (i) the inclusion of the surface long line elements in the Protocol should be revised to ensure compliance with the principle of responsible fisheries and to avoid the risk of causing unsustainable mortality of non-target species of sharks, seabird and turtle populations.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.3.2012
Result of final vote	+: 25 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Michael Cashman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Corina Crețu, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, Filip Kaczmarek, Franziska Keller, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theoharous, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Enrique Guerrero Salom, Edvard Kožušník, Cristian Dan Preda, Patrizia Toia