



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Fisheries

2009/2108(INI)

8.4.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on the implementation of EU legislation aiming at the conservation of
biodiversity
(2009/2108(INI))

Rapporteur: Isabella Lövin

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Agrees with the Commission option of a new 2020 headline target seeking to ‘halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and restore them insofar as possible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss’;
2. Stresses that halting biodiversity loss is of the utmost importance for the survival of fishing communities which are adversely effected by the depletion of fish stocks caused by various human activities;
3. Considers that the protection of marine biodiversity is essential, since it leads to increased ecosystem resilience, and thus *inter alia* helps to alleviate climate change impacts;
4. Calls therefore on the Commission to take special measures to protect the marine species and habitats most vulnerable to climate change, also ensuring that actions taken to adapt to, or reduce, the impact of climate change do not have adverse effects on marine biodiversity;
5. Calls on the Commission to adopt a model network of marine protected areas (MPAs) making it possible to reconcile preserving the environment and practising sustainable fishing; asks it to report regularly on the progress made by Member States in implementing the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives, in particular the establishment of the Natura 2000 network in the marine environment, since currently less than 10% of protected areas are marine sites, as well as on the reporting and monitoring obligations of the Member States;
6. States that the major tools for achieving biodiversity objectives in the marine environment, in addition to the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives, are the Water Framework Directive for coastal waters and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56 for all marine waters;
7. Considers that Member States must be allowed to take initiatives to protect marine biodiversity going beyond the action required under EU legislation;
8. Considers that efforts so far to minimise and eliminate by-catch of juveniles, non-target fish species, marine mammals, turtles and birds in European fisheries have as a whole been insufficient;
9. Considers that a reduction in discards must be a major objective of the CFP and calls on the Commission to identify the causes of discards and to work out solutions specific to each fishery, in particular through the introduction of multi-species or biomass quotas, through the selectivity of gear, such as the general use of square-meshed nets, and through spatial management of stocks;

10. Stresses the essential role played by fisheries from an economic and social point of view in coastal development and from an environmental point of view in marine ecosystems; considers that the CFP must not hinder but facilitate Member States' compliance with biodiversity legislation, in particular the establishment of adequate protection measures in marine Natura 2000 sites;
11. Notes that marine species and habitats enjoy less protection than terrestrial species and habitats in EU biodiversity legislation, and therefore calls on the Commission to assess the weaknesses in the legislation and its implementation, and to develop MPAs in which economic activities, including fishing, are the subject of strengthened ecosystem-based management;
12. Further notes that the various conventions for the regional seas around the EU, such as OSPAR, HELCOM and Barcelona, provide an important framework for protecting marine ecosystems;
13. Reminds the Commission and Member States that the Marine Strategy Directive does not limit the use of marine protected areas to Natura 2000, and therefore requests that Member States and the Commission take account of and create linkages between all marine protected areas, including those designated under regional seas conventions, with the aim of creating a coherent and comprehensive network;
14. Highlights the fact that the most important descriptor of good environmental status is that marine biodiversity is maintained;
15. Stresses the potential for practical improvement of marine management now that the Marine Strategy Framework Directive has introduced new mechanisms for better coordination between MPAs and fisheries measures;
16. Calls on the Commission to mainstream the ecosystem approach, already adopted by the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, in all EU policies affecting marine biodiversity; stresses further that ecosystem services include, but are not limited to, carbon storage and sequestration by natural ecosystems;
17. Stresses the need for further action in the field of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning as these could be important elements of a participatory ecosystem approach, ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources and respecting natural processes and ecosystem carrying capacity;
18. Considers that regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) are responsible for the management of fisheries and guarantors of responsible fishing on the high seas; considers that it is therefore essential to strengthen their powers, in particular with regard to controls and deterrent penalties, and that it is first and foremost up to RFMOs to manage the stocks of certain marine species of commercial importance and to require the use of catch certificates;
19. Calls on the Commission to act with the highest level of ambition for the restoration of biodiversity and natural ecosystems within the broader EU marine environment; stresses

further that restoration efforts could form a significant source of employment for coastal communities;

20. Calls on the EU to ensure that equity is safeguarded at the European and global level; further stresses the need to safeguard and extend the application of the 'polluter pays' principle as well as the full-cost recovery principle;
21. Calls on the Commission to consider the introduction of national or sector-based targets for the reduction of biodiversity impacts and loss;
22. Calls on the Commission to ensure that awareness and involvement of all sectors of society and the general public is included in the post-2010 EU vision for biodiversity.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	7.4.2010
Result of final vote	+: 20 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Josefa Andrés Barea, Kriton Arsenis, Alain Cadec, João Ferreira, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk, Carl Haglund, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Werner Kuhn, Jean-Marie Le Pen, Isabella Lövin, Guido Milana, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Britta Reimers, Crescenzo Rivellini, Ulrike Rodust, Catherine Trautmann, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Julie Girling, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Antolín Sánchez Presedo