



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Fisheries

2010/2040(INI)

19.7.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on an Integrated Maritime Policy - Evaluation of progress made and new challenges
(2010/2040(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Antonello Antinoro

(*) Associated committee – Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Fisheries calls on the Committee on Transport and Tourism, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Draws attention to the importance of including the fisheries and aquaculture policy in the IMP as a full policy, not subordinated to other policies, so as to provide the most appropriate response to the environmental and economic concerns of both society in general and the fisheries sector itself;
2. Reiterates the need to establish cross-cutting policy approaches encompassing fisheries and aquaculture, with a view, among other things, to optimising European maritime spatial planning, fostering the development of marine-related knowledge, and providing for integrated maritime surveillance;
3. Insists, in particular, that the constraints and specificities of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors be taken into account in the integrated maritime policy (IMP) as regards use of the maritime domain, in particular as regards the availability of areas in which to carry on such activities and the need to conserve marine habitats by establishing marine reserves and other measures for that purpose, with special emphasis on better-planned research and full consideration for the geographical and climatological diversity of each sea area;
4. Particularly stresses the vital need to carry out multidisciplinary research programmes designed to properly integrate all the activities occurring in the marine environment, both as regards the conservation of marine ecosystems and as regards new technology research (more selective gear, environment-friendlier engines, development of species in captivity, etc.), since this will directly benefit the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
5. Considers it essential to strengthen regional cooperation in order to achieve sustainable and more efficient management of marine and coastal resources, particularly where there is a complete interdependence of activities in the maritime area, as is the case in many sea areas, for example in the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea;
6. Is aware that the delimitation of frontiers between European countries bordering the Mediterranean and other Mediterranean countries raises politically complex and sensitive issues that could obstruct the emergence of a genuinely integrated maritime policy for the Mediterranean region, not least where the management of fish stocks is concerned;
7. Calls on the European Union therefore to campaign within the Union for the Mediterranean for the draft common code of good practice in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to be integrated into the programme of this new international organisation;
8. Calls for the development of exchanges between institutional actors of the IMP and the common fisheries policy (CFP) in connection with the desirable regionalisation of the latter, so as to release potential synergies between the IMP and the CFP, particularly in the context of an approach based on fishing zones;
9. Calls, also, for strengthening of the mechanisms for cooperation between the various

policies that together form the IMP, including the CFP, based in particular on the joint consultation bodies set up in each Member State and bringing together actors from all the sectors involved, thus making possible a genuine exchange between those policies;

10. Stresses that the wish to see the IMP contribute to the safeguarding of an economically and socially viable European fisheries sector which respects the environment but is also a source of wealth for its actors will also help with the success of the Community employment and economic development policies, including the commercial policy, and with the supply of high-quality foods to the EU, which itself has serious shortages in this area;
11. Asks for the principles of resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption to be mainstreamed in the IMP;
12. Stresses that both fisheries and aquaculture have a place in the maritime economy and development of often remote coastal regions, whose economic, social and environmental development the IMP should strengthen;
13. Notes the essential importance of European maritime spatial planning and its uses for coastal regions and the outermost regions in particular and points to the need to protect the ecologically most sensitive marine biogeographical regions while enabling the fisheries sector to exploit resources on a sustainable basis;
14. Reiterates the urgent need to relieve pressures upon the marine environment which originate from land, such as pollution from industrial and agricultural effluents and poor coastal zone management, in the context of an integrated ecosystem-based approach; stresses, furthermore, the need for the urgent implementation of a network of marine protected areas;
15. Stresses the important role of targeted and integrated marine research and the promotion of innovation which will help meet the needs of stakeholders more effectively and maintain marine biodiversity; calls on the Commission to examine the possibility of greater support for applied research within the 8th FP through, for example, horizontal coordination of the relevant research programmes, more adequate funding or the creation of a European Marine Research Institute;
16. Asks the Commission and Member States, as a matter of urgency, to reassess risks arising from the operation of offshore drilling platforms, offshore wind parks, sand and gravel extraction and other space-hungry uses, bearing in mind the weaker position of fisheries, fishermen and coastal communities;
17. Urges that the fisheries sector be involved more closely, and participate more actively, in European maritime clusters;
18. Supports the Commission's stated intention to finance the IMP with EUR 50 million over the next two years in order to build upon previous projects in the areas of policy, governance, sustainability and surveillance;
19. Stresses the need to assess and if necessary contribute to the additional financial needs of

coastal Member States in the context of maritime surveillance of EU waters;

20. Stresses that funding to implement the IMP must be guaranteed in the Community budget by means of a proportional contribution from all the sectors affected by this policy, taking account of the differences that the EU budget applies to each policy;
21. Asks for further consideration to be given to provisions for information to EU citizens and public participation regarding all aspects of the IMP.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	14.7.2010
Result of final vote	+: 19 -: 2 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Josefa Andrés Barea, Antonello Antinoro, Alain Cadec, João Ferreira, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk, Carl Haglund, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Werner Kuhn, Isabella Lövin, Guido Milana, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Ulrike Rodust, Struan Stevenson, Catherine Trautmann, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Veronica Lope Fontagné