



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on Fisheries*

---

**2012/2063(INI)**

6.9.2012

# OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Development

on the EU 2011 Report on Policy Coherence for Development  
(2012/2063(INI))

Rapporteur: João Ferreira

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Maintains that the Union's development policy should be carried out within the framework of the obligation agreed in the United Nations and other organisations and competent international bodies, and that the contribution of fishing to development should be made within the framework of the principles and objectives of the Union's external action and should contribute towards the main aim of Union development policy, which is to reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty in developing countries;
2. Believes that the Union should contribute to development in the sphere of fisheries by supporting the principle of surplus fishing stocks and other rules laid down in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the application of the FAO Guidelines for responsible fisheries and the FAO Compliance Agreement on the conservation and management of fisheries resources at global level;
3. Emphasises that the objectives of fisheries policy must be implemented on a basis of transparency and coherence with other Union objectives, and that their impact on development must be planned, measured and assessed and regularly and systematically subjected to democratic control;
4. Advocates ensuring full coherence with and building synergies between the design, development, monitoring and evaluation of Community development cooperation policy and the equivalent procedures for the sectoral policies, particularly those having the greatest impact on development, such as the commercial, agricultural and fisheries policies, bearing in mind that the greatest part of world catch in terms of value is fished in the waters of developing countries, that the majority of catches in ACP waters are made by foreign vessels, and that fishing is the source of over one-quarter of the protein intake of people in developing countries;
5. Wishes to make it clear that fisheries cooperation agreements and the fisheries-related aspects of development cooperation agreements and EU trade agreements should contribute towards making fishing a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable activity for the EU and its partners;
6. Regrets the fact that a substantial proportion of the objectives of the Fisheries Partnership Agreements have not been achieved; regrets in particular the poor results attained in the fields of scientific and technological cooperation and support for the sustainable development of the fishing industry (and allied industries) in developing countries; believes these aspects can be improved through coherent policies and governance of international fishery activity;
7. Stresses that the EU must ensure that the current reform of the Common Fisheries Policy is mainstreamed with its commitment towards developing countries to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as well as the basic human right to food as recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

8. Notes that, in general, Fisheries Partnership Agreements have basically served to transfer funds to developing countries in exchange for exploitation of their fisheries resources; considers, therefore, that aid should be end-focused, measurable, efficient in developing the fisheries sector in third countries and differentiated from payments for access rights;
9. Calls on the Commission to ensure that its external action in general, and the Fisheries Partnership Agreements in particular, promote good governance and transparency and create the conditions for developing third countries to base their fisheries policies on the same guidelines and sustainability standards as the common fisheries policy, including: the adoption of decisions based on scientific reports and impact studies and the drafting of multiannual plans allowing exploitation proportionate to the maximum sustainable yield of stocks; special support for small-scale fishing and aquaculture activities and the communities which depend on them; promotion of selective fishing and adaptation of fleet capacity to resources and more responsible fishing practices; the gradual reduction and ultimate elimination of discards; efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; improvements to safety and welfare conditions at work; protection of biodiversity and the environment and measures to combat climate change; product quality and better marketing; and promotion of research and innovation in order to increase the sustainability of activities in the sphere of fisheries, aquaculture and associated industries;
10. Stresses that the agreements and the industries which develop around them are contributing to the development of third countries and their future ability to exploit their own resources;
11. Maintains firmly that, in their relations with third countries and their actions within international organisations, the Union and its Member States must contribute to building the capacities of societies and governments of developing countries to draw up, implement and monitor sustainable fisheries policies which increase their food security and contribute to their development;
12. Advocates the joint formulation of models with objectives, actions and indicators with the aim of monitoring the use of the funds more effectively in a spirit of partnership; stresses that this monitoring must include the adoption of corrective procedures, to be agreed with the third country, whenever a deviation of one of the parties from the objectives is observed;
13. Welcomes the example of transparency that the EU has set in a global context by publishing the conditions of its Fisheries Partnerships Agreements; urges the Commission to continue its openness by ensuring that the evaluations of these agreements are also publically available, respecting the principles of the Aarhus convention, for the purpose of enabling local parliaments, civil society and other stakeholders to effectively scrutinise the implementation and impact of the agreements;
14. Draws attention to the importance of the existence of transparent and up-to-date scientific data on fish stocks, on all fisheries agreements including those of the EU, and on total fishing effort in each country's waters; considers that scientific assessment should precede the signature of agreements or at least that the agreements should contribute to the examination of data;

15. Draws attention to the problem of illegal, unregistered and undeclared (IUU) fishing; recalls that many vessels do not duly report their catches and are not inspected, the data supplied by vessels are not checked and the species caught are not clearly identified; considers that the EU can and must make a more effective contribution towards overcoming these problems; urges the Commission, in all its international relations, to support the principle of flag state responsibility, which underpins international law and is fundamental to an efficient implementation of the IUU regulation;
16. Advocates better linkage of Fisheries Partnership Agreements to existing development policy instruments, particularly the EDF, and to conditions relating to access to EU markets for developing countries.
17. Emphasises that fisheries cooperation is able to directly benefit the 150 million people on our planet who rely on fishing and fishery-related activities for their livelihood.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	6.9.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 15 -: 1 0: 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Kriton Arsenis, Alain Cadec, Chris Davies, João Ferreira, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Ian Hudghton, Werner Kuhn, Isabella Lövin, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Guido Milana, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Crescenzo Rivellini, Ulrike Rodust, Struan Stevenson, Isabelle Thomas, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Jean-Paul Besset, Julie Girling, Nikolaos Salavrakos, Antolín Sánchez Presedo