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*Committee on Fisheries*

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**2015/2132(BUD)**

4.9.2015

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016  
(2015/2132(BUD))

Rapporteur: Alain Cadec

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## **SUGGESTIONS**

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

### ***General overview***

1. Points out how important it is that the EU budget reflects the stated policy objectives for employment, businesses and entrepreneurship; stresses that fisheries and maritime affairs are also areas where jobs are created and growth is generated and that they contribute actively to regional development and natural-resource management;
2. Points out that there is a major economic, social and environmental dimension to fisheries and maritime affairs and that they play a vital role in the blue economy;
3. Is concerned at the situation in the fisheries sector, which must maintain its competitiveness while complying with the demands of the common fisheries policy (CFP) and the requirements of sound fishery resource management under arrangements to manage stocks above the biomass levels at which the maximum sustainable yield can be achieved; is concerned at the industry's and national authorities' difficulties in meeting the landing obligation;
4. Designates youth employment in this sector a political priority; stresses that it is the responsibility of Member States to do their utmost to make it easier for young people to take up the various occupations within fishing by making use of all tools made available to them, including the Structural Funds;

### ***Council position***

5. Deplores the fact that, in Title 11 of Section III, the Council has reduced commitment appropriations by EUR 750 388 and payment appropriations by EUR 4 646 986;
6. Expresses its concern about the Council's reading of the budget for 2016, which fails to take into account the political commitments in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and reduces certain appropriations which are vital to the implementation of the CFP; calls, accordingly, for the appropriations for Title 11 of Section III of the Commission's Draft Budget to be reinstated;

### ***Commitment appropriations under Title 11 of Section III***

7. Notes the commitment appropriations proposed by the Commission for the 2016 budget; notes the amount entered, EUR 1 047 031 838, which comes under heading 2 of the MFF; notes the 41,1 % reduction compared to the previous financial year; notes that that the bulk of that EUR 729 120 330 reduction comes from the 2014 appropriations carried forward to 2015 as a result of the technical revision of the MFF and the scheduling delay affecting the Structural Funds, including the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF);
8. Points out that appropriations for the 2015 financial year have been increased by EUR 740 725 000 because of unused 2014 appropriations;

9. Observes that the reduction in the draft budget is mainly accounted for by appropriations for the EMFF, i.e., a reduction of EUR 728 588 330 compared to the 2015 financial year; takes the view, however, that commitment appropriations are in line with the political decisions taken during the EMFF negotiations and with MFF ceilings;
10. Notes the EUR 150 500 000 in commitment appropriations allocated, in the draft budget, for Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), which is 0,4 % down on 2015; takes the view, however, factoring in assumptions as regards inflation, that this stagnation in the level of appropriations is a real reduction;
11. Notes the EUR 36 056 336 in heading 5 commitment appropriations to cover administrative expenditure under Title 11 of Section III, which represents a reduction of EUR 139 563 and reflects the effort being made to scale back the Commission's administrative spending; welcomes, in this regard, the exemplary conduct demonstrated by the Commission in reducing its administrative expenditure;

#### ***Payment appropriations under Title 11 of Section III***

12. Notes the payment appropriations proposed by the Commission for the 2016 budget; notes the amount entered, EUR 720 647 758, under heading 2 of the MFF, which is 24,9 % down on the previous financial year; notes that the bulk of that EUR 238 621 588 reduction is accounted for by an increase on 2015 appropriations to meet European Fisheries Fund (EFF) payment requests;
13. Observes that that reduction is being borne solely by the structural-fund budget lines; states that the reduction was foreseeable and that the amounts entered in the 2016 draft budget are in line with needs;
14. Notes the EUR 150 000 000 in payments requested for SFPAs and in compulsory contributions to RFMOs, which represents a slight increase of 0,3 % (largely cancelled out by inflation);
15. Notes the heading 5 payment appropriations, identical in volume to commitment appropriations, to cover administrative expenditure under Title 2 of Section III;

#### ***Administrative expenditure and establishment plan***

16. Points up the cost-cutting efforts made by the Commission in reducing its administrative expenditure; cautions the Council against making any attempt to reduce that expenditure, since, if that were done, the ability of DG MARE to carry out all its tasks properly would be significantly compromised;
17. Notes that DG MARE's establishment plan is in line with the objective of an annual 1 % reduction in posts, account being taken of redeployment; notes that the work to be carried out by DG MARE will not be significantly hampered as a result of the projections for 2016 (even though they are down);
18. Welcomes the cooperation on human resources between DG MARE and the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), the latter carrying out a

number of EMFF actions, including in connection with the integrated maritime policy, control, and scientific advice and knowledge; calls on the Commission to deepen that constructive cooperation;

19. Calls on the Council to keep heading 2 and 5 administrative appropriations at the levels requested in the draft budget;

#### ***External dimension of the CFP***

20. Considers that the appropriations allocated to SPAs should be treated as non-differentiated appropriations, since, after validation, a budgetary commitment gives rise to a payment for the same amount;
21. Calls on DG MARE to carry out precise monitoring of sectoral aid, with detailed charts, in line with the indicators put forward in the programme statements;
22. Takes the view that the volume of appropriations requested by the Commission is sufficient and necessary to achieve the ambitious objectives relating to the CFP's external dimension;

#### ***European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)***

23. Notes the appropriations earmarked for the EFCA; regrets the loss of one post on the establishment plan; proposes therefore that the budget of the EFCA be increased so as to enable it to carry out the new tasks arising from the new Basic Regulation on the CFP; considers that the proposed increase should cover the costs incurred in respect of staff, operations and IT support;
24. Calls on the Council and Commission to resume dialogue on appropriations for EU agencies in the context of the revision of the CFP;

#### ***EMFF***

25. Points out that the deadline for eligibility of expenditure incurred by EFF beneficiaries is 31 December 2015; considers that, in 2016, Member States will apply for reimbursement of some of that expenditure; notes the EFF payment appropriations requested in the draft budget; considers that they ought to be sufficient;
26. Urges the Member States concerned to do their utmost to ensure that all operational programmes as referred to in Articles 17, 18 and 19 of the EMFF Regulation are validated by 31 December 2015 at the latest; takes the view that the amounts entered in the draft budget against Articles 11 06 60, 11 06 61, 11 06 62 and 11 06 63 are in line with needs, with the exception, however, of heading 11 06 62 01 on scientific advice and knowledge, the drastic reduction of payments for which, particularly in comparison with 2015, seems unjustified, and that the amounts should therefore be reinstated at the 2015 levels;

#### ***Transparency***

27. Insists that the Commission forward immediately to Parliament, and subsequently every year, a progress board covering all commitments and payments, broken down by Member

State, so as to ensure compliance with the various EMFF ceilings;

***Pilot projects and preparatory actions***

28. Supports all current pilot projects and preparatory actions related to fisheries, which should be adequately funded so that they can be completed; notes the requests for payment appropriations for the projects and actions under Items 11 06 77 03, 11 06 77 06, 11 06 77 07, 11 06 77 08 and 11 06 77 09; calls on the Council to take into consideration the new pilot projects backed by Parliament.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	3.9.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 14 - : 4 0 : 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Renata Briano, Alain Cadec, Richard Corbett, Diane Dodds, Raymond Finch, Ian Hudghton, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Liadh Ní Riada, Ulrike Rodust, Remo Sernagiotto, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Isabelle Thomas
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	José Blanco López, Ian Duncan, Anja Hazekamp, Francisco José Millán Mon
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Enrique Calvet Chambon, Axel Voss