



2021/0227(BUD)

3.9.2021

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022 -
all sections
(2021/0227(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pierre Karleskind

PA_NonLeg

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:

1. Recalls the economic, social and environmental aspects of fisheries, aquaculture and maritime affairs; stresses their vital role in boosting the development of the sustainable blue economy and their contribution to developing and revitalising coastal areas;
2. Welcomes the increase in the EMFAF Budget 2022; reiterates that, for sustainable fisheries, including small scale fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture to continue to be viable and competitive, appropriate funding for these sectors is needed; believes that the budget for these sectors must respond to the needs identified by the Member States and take into account social, environmental and economic objectives and contribute to the EU objective, notably those set out in the Green Deal, the new industrial strategy, the 'Farm to Fork' strategy, the New approach for a sustainable blue economy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030; takes the view that maintaining the competitive position of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors must go hand in hand with achieving these goals any proposal must therefore be subject to an impact assessment;
3. Calls for attention to the fact that the blue bioeconomy can be an important element in taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. Fisheries, aquaculture and algae culture are crucial to increase sustainable aquatic food production in EU. The development of water-based food production systems resilient to climate change requires more research and innovation prior to their deployment. Algal biomass is a potential important aquatic resource that can be used as feedstock in a wide range of uses;
4. Recalls that, as a result of the Brexit, the EU fishing sector is suffering considerable economic loss; considers therefore, as a matter of priority, that the Commission secures compensation commensurate with the damage suffered by the sector and the fishing communities, taking into account all consequences, direct and indirect, of the Agreement; highlights the difficulties for the sector to obtain fishing authorisations in the 6-12 nautical miles and in Guernsey and Jersey waters; urges the Member States, in this regard, to fully use all of the resources under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve in order to mitigate the direct and indirect negative impacts of the Agreement, and to avoid discrimination between the European fleet affected by Brexit, whether they fish in UK waters or not;
5. Recalls that, as a result of the Brexit, the EU aquaculture sector is also suffering considerable economic loss; considers therefore, as a matter of priority, that the Commission secures compensation commensurate with the damage suffered by the sector, taking into account all consequences, direct and indirect, of the Agreement and of the UK now being a third country; highlights the difficulties for the import of shellfish from so-called class B and C areas from the UK to the EU and the prohibition of the purification of these shellfish in the EU; urges the Commission, in this regard, to make an exception and to allow for shellfish of class B and C areas from the UK to be brought to the EU in sealed trucks to be purified in EU member states at special depuration centers that meet the required capacity;

6. Stresses the importance of fixing the economic and social damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has hit the entire fisheries and aquaculture sector hard; welcomes the introduction, in the new EMFAF, of the possibility to trigger measures for the aquaculture and fisheries sectors in case of exceptional events generating a significant disruption of markets as well as temporary cessation in case of sanitary crisis; believes that the inclusion of such provisions better protects the sector in case of a new sanitary crisis;
7. Stresses the importance of fixing the economic and social damage caused by offshore windfarms, which have and will keep affecting the fisheries sector in a negative way; calls for the introduction of compensation for the disruptions and losses caused by offshore windfarms; reiterates that, for the fisheries sector to continue to be viable and competitive, appropriate funding and compensation for this sector is needed;
8. Welcomes the approvals by the Commission of Member states recovery plans; stresses out the importance of Member States using these resources to ensure sustainable recovery of the fishing and aquaculture sector when implementing their recovery plans;
9. Draws attention to the potential of European aquaculture, including in terms of food security and health benefits in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy; calls on the Commission to foster the sustainable growth of this sector above the actual 2% of global aquaculture production with specific, acceptable and shared targets for 2030; Highlights that the strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture developed recommendations regarding animal welfare; stresses that the EMFAF should be used to further improve animal welfare standards in fisheries and aquaculture;
10. Insists on the necessity to improve scientific and technical knowledge to ensure the most reliable research-based solutions for all marine biological resources in line with the requirements of the CFP; reiterates the importance of ensuring sufficient financial resources for the collection, management, use and exchange of data in the fisheries sector;
11. Insists on the necessity to improve scientific and technical knowledge to ensure the most reliable research-based solutions; reiterates the importance of ensuring sufficient financial resources for the collection, management, use and exchange of data in the fisheries sector in the EU and in the waters of third countries with which we have and/or are establishing SFPAs;
12. Is concerned that less than 50 % of EMFAF operational programmes are expected to be adopted in 2021, while the remaining programmes will be adopted only in 2022. Asks the Commission to publish a detailed report on the re-programming of unspent EMFAF allocations; draws particular attention to the fact that 3 457, 6 million EUR amount on outstanding commitments related to the EMFF programme in the period 2014 – 2020 was not paid or reimbursed as the 1 January 2021; invites the Members States and the Commission to adopt the operational programmes under the EMFAF urgently; asks the Commission to improve the process of implementation, approval and application of the funds;

13. Draws attention to the international dimension of the CFP and its economic, social and environmental benefits and calls on the Commission to devote adequate resources to Oceans governance; stresses out the importance of international cooperation to achieve EU's commitments;
14. Stresses the importance of control in securing the objectives of the CFP; welcomes, in this regard, the additional funding allocated to the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), and the two additional Offshore Patrol Vessels and aircraft missions in waters adjoining the United Kingdom; calls to carry out its activities contributing to the achievement of the CFP goals, especially in the light of increased complexity and challenges due to Brexit;
15. Recalls that EFCA budget should also assure the necessary means to assist the uniform implementation and organisation of the operational coordination of control activities by Member States for the implementation of specific control and inspection programmes, control programmes related to IUU fishing and international control and inspection programmes, including in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations convention areas such as NAFO, IOTC and others;
16. Deplores the fact that the EU Atlantic Maritime Strategy makes no mention of fisheries and aquaculture; therefore, regrets that no funding has been earmarked for implementing the strategy;
17. Stresses that generational renewal is one of the European fishing sector's priorities; invites Member States to draw on the EMFAF to finance the introduction of programmes specifically designed to help young people to take up careers in fisheries, to make the sector more diverse and to encourage people from under-represented groups, particularly women, to join the sector; highlights that generational renewal can contribute to the achievement of Green Deal objectives, since younger generations are more prepared and open to the green and digital transitions, which are fundamental for the sector;
18. Reiterates the need to provide substantial support for disadvantaged coastal areas and European outermost regions;

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	1.9.2021
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, François-Xavier Bellamy, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Isabel Carvalhais, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Rosanna Conte, Rosa D'Amato, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Søren Gade, Francisco Guerreiro, Anja Hazekamp, Niclas Herbst, Ladislav Ilčić, France Jamet, Pierre Karleskind, Predrag Fred Matić, Francisco José Millán Mon, Grace O'Sullivan, João Pimenta Lopes, Manuel Pizarro, Caroline Roose, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Peter van Dalen, Emma Wiesner, Theodoros Zagorakis
Substitutes present for the final vote	Valentino Grant

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

26	+
ECR	Ladislav Ilčić, Bert-Jan Ruissen
ID	Rosanna Conte, Valentino Grant, France Jamet
PPE	François-Xavier Bellamy, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Peter van Dalen, Niclas Herbst, Francisco José Millán Mon, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Theodoros Zagorakis
Renew	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Søren Gade, Pierre Karleskind, Emma Wiesner
S&D	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, Isabel Carvalhais, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Predrag Fred Matić, Manuel Pizarro
Verts/ALE	Rosa D'Amato, Francisco Guerreiro, Grace O'Sullivan, Caroline Roose

1	-
The Left	Anja Hazekamp

1	0
The Left	João Pimenta Lopes

Key to symbols:

- + : in favour
- : against
- 0 : abstention