



2023/0264(BUD)

19.7.2023

OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets

on General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024 - all sections
(2023/0264(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 not only in ensuring food sovereignty and resilience of marine ecosystems and food systems but also in boosting the development of a sustainable blue economy that develops within ecological limits and in contributing to the development and revitalisation of coastal areas, especially in the outermost regions; takes the view that maintaining the competitive position of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors must go hand in hand with achieving the social, environmental and economic objectives set out in the common fisheries policy (CFP) as well as in the Green Deal and subsequent strategies;
2. Recalls the effects on the food supply chain, fuel costs and price volatility caused by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, as well as its impacts on EU fishing activities and the livelihoods of fishers, especially in the Black Sea;
3. Stresses that Russia's military aggression has led to significant disruptions in trade flows and an increase in energy prices, which has hit small-scale fisheries particularly hard, requiring the use of European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) crisis measures to mitigate the effects of inflation for fishers, producers and consumers;
4. Calls on the Commission to promote synergies between Member States' services and local actors, including fishers, to properly tackle the challenges related to competition for maritime space with a view to ensuring the harmonious coexistence of different maritime activities, especially fishing activities;
5. Insists that special attention must be devoted to the fishing fleets in order to improve safety, on-board living conditions, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, including renewal of the fleet and with special attention to the small scale fishing fleet, while ensuring the social and economic resilience of the communities that depend on them; reiterates that this can contribute to making the fishery sector more attractive and sustainable and must not be confused with fleet expansion or increased fishing capacity or ability to catch fish;
6. Urges the Commission to propose further actions to increase the global share of sustainable EU aquaculture production, which contributes to the supply of aquatic protein of high quality and with a low carbon footprint ; calls on the Member States and the Commission to make full use of the financial resources available for the EMFAF in order to sustainably boost the growth of this sector's share of global aquaculture production above its current 2 % by means of specific, acceptable and shared targets for 2030; urges Member States to earmark sufficient funding from the Recovery and Resilience Facility to support the innovation, sustainability and resilience, including against predators, of EU aquaculture sector, such as complimentary feed with a lower environmental and climate footprint and contributing to reduce the EU dependency on fish meal imports;

7. Recalls that, as a result of the Brexit, the EU fishing sector is still experiencing considerable economic disruptions; calls on the Commission, therefore, as a matter of priority, to secure commensurate compensation to offset the damage suffered by the sector and fishing communities; insists that Member States must ensure that such compensation reaches fishers as soon as possible;
8. Encourages Member States to monitor the implementation of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) and calls on the Commission to extend the deadline to fully cover the adjustment period until 30 of June of 2026, thereby allowing fishers, including small scale fishers, to fully benefit from its resources; insists that the BAR should also be used to help the wholesale and processing sectors, which have been badly affected by this crisis; stresses that the Brexit Adjustment Reserve should finance a range of measures to tackle the impacts of Brexit ranging from permanent cessation to investments in order to ensure the continuity of the fishing activities;
9. Insists on the need to improve scientific and technical knowledge in order to ensure the development and use of the most reliable research-based solutions; reiterates the importance of guaranteeing sufficient financial resources for Member States' and European scientific entities so that they can collect, manage, analyse, use and exchange fisheries sector data and invest in research on innovative, and more selective fishing techniques with technology-openness;
10. Draws attention to the international dimension of the CFP and its economic, social and environmental benefits; calls on the Commission to devote adequate resources to ocean governance; stresses the importance of international cooperation, transparency, traceability and a level playing field for delivering on the EU's commitments;
11. Pledges its support to the combat against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which aims in particular to eliminate illegally caught seafood from EU supply chains and to ensure a level playing field for European fishers; calls therefore for adequate and increased funding for the EU's policy to combat IUU fishing worldwide, including by strengthening checks on goods at the EU's borders or development aid and by furthering cooperation with national navies; notes that only 296 million euros of the envelope allocated to control have been used out of the 488 million foreseen by the EMFF 2014-2020, meaning that around 40 percent of the envelope has not been used; therefore calls for full use of the budget allocated to fisheries control to implement the upcoming reform Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 on fisheries control agreed in trilogue;
12. Welcomes the Commission's communication entitled 'On the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture sector' (COM(2023)0100); calls on the Commission to adequately fund measures aiming to effectively make the EU fleet less dependent on fossil fuels and more fuel efficient; calls on the Commission, further, to fund research on adapting zero-emission propulsion systems, such as e-fuels, wind propulsion and batteries, for use on fishing vessels and with different gear types;
13. Stresses the importance of monitoring for securing the objectives of the CFP; underlines the role of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in ensuring a level playing field for the EU fleet, and especially in discouraging and curbing IUU fishing in European waters and also at a global level, which requires more ambitious funding in

the long term if the objectives of the CFP are to be achieved; calls on the Commission to beef up the tripartite working arrangement between the EFCA, the European Maritime Security Agency (EMSA) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex);

14. Stresses that generational renewal, including diversifying the profession, is one of the European fishing sector's priorities; invites Member States to draw on the EMFAF to finance programmes specifically designed to help young people to take up careers in fisheries and the wider sustainable blue economy sector, to make the sector more diverse and to encourage people from underrepresented groups, particularly women, to join the sector; calls, in this regard, on the Commission to support the mobilisation of budgetary resources to adapt and improve the working conditions on board fishing vessels and to implement projects to support the creation of an association of young European fishers;
15. Reiterates the need to provide substantial support for disadvantaged coastal areas and European outermost regions. Calls for the European Commission to allow financial support for fleet renewal in the European outermost regions by ending the ban on State aid for vessel replacements. Recalls that, contrary to the provisions of the EMFAF, this objective has not received any European funding in any region.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	18.7.2023
Result of final vote	+ : 20 - : 0 0 : 3
Members present for the final vote	Clara Aguilera, François-Xavier Bellamy, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Isabel Carvalhais, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Asger Christensen, Rosanna Conte, Rosa D'Amato, Niclas Herbst, Ladislav Ilčić, France Jamet, Predrag Fred Matić, Francisco José Millán Mon, Ana Miranda, Caroline Roose, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Marc Tarabella
Substitutes present for the final vote	Ska Keller, Gabriel Mato, Stéphanie Yon-Courtin
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Elsi Katainen, Margarida Marques

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

20	+
ECR	Ladislav Ilčić, Bert-Jan Ruissen
ID	Rosanna Conte, France Jamet
NI	Marc Tarabella
PPE	François-Xavier Bellamy, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Niclas Herbst, Gabriel Mato, Francisco José Millán Mon, Annie Schreijer-Pierik
Renew	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Asger Christensen, Elsi Katainen, Stéphanie Yon-Courtin
S&D	Clara Aguilera, Isabel Carvalhais, Margarida Marques, Predrag Fred Matić
Verts/ALE	Ana Miranda

0	-

3	0
Verts/ALE	Rosa D'Amato, Ska Keller, Caroline Roose

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention