

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on Fisheries*

**2006/2018(BUD)**

3.10.2006

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Fisheries

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007  
(C6-0299/2006 -2006/2018(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Draftswoman: Rosa Miguélez Ramos

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## **Introduction**

The Commission's approach when drawing up its proposal for the Preliminary Draft Budget 2007 has been largely dictated by the constraints imposed by the Financial Perspective for the years 2007-2013.

Thus in 2007, as the opening year of the new programming period, there is approximately a 10% reduction linked to the overall decrease in the allocation set aside for the structural funds.

All appropriations for fisheries for the 2007-13 period are contained under Heading 2: Preservation and Management of Natural Resources. The 2007 Preliminary draft budget registers, in the fisheries sector, commitment and payment appropriations which respectively amount to € 923 million and € 1.2 billion.

Several key elements of the budget emerge. These include an increase of 6.7% for external action. €194 million is allocated to international fisheries agreements in order to take account of new agreements, while a substantial rise is envisaged in non-compulsory contributions to international organisations (Regional Fisheries Organisations) including some €6 million for new action in the framework of fisheries agreements such as combating illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fisheries and improving scientific advice.

Governance of the CFP receives a 41% increase including action to promote the new Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the Union and to carry out studies on maritime affairs.

Support for the management of fishery resources (collection of basic data and improvement of scientific advice) has been split from control and inspection with increases of 12 and 25%.

For the European Fisheries Fund, the allocations for payments include the 7% advance foreseen in the regulation. With regard to markets, expenditure remains the same, although some changes are made to the mode of financial management.

Finally, in relation to research, management of the 7th Framework Programme has been transferred from DG FISH to DG RTD.

## **Comments**

The draftsman broadly welcomes the Budget proposals for 2007 given the limits dictated by the Financial Perspective and believes that they should be sufficient to cover current obligations but recalls the fact that the projected resources decided upon by the European Council in December 2005 are insufficient overall to meet the needs of the fisheries sector at a time of continued crisis in the fishing industry.

Some specific comments may, nevertheless, be made in relation to the figures adopted by the Council in the Draft Budget of 14 July, where several cuts were made in relation to the Commission's proposals.

With regard to international fisheries agreements, the Council has cut €10m from the reserve for both commitments and payments. This could pose problems for the Union's legal

obligations in this area. The amounts should therefore be restored.

The other cuts made by Council relate only to payments. €23m has been taken from the European Fisheries Fund for Convergence regions and €7m for non-Convergence regions, which would make it impossible to pay the 7% advance stipulated under the EFF Regulation. €5m has also been reduced from the budget line for the collection of basic data and €7m from the budget line for the financial contribution to Member States for expenses in the field of control.

These cuts in what must be seen as priority areas of the CFP are arbitrary and unjustified. Moreover, they send precisely the wrong signal at this critical time for the sector. The overall allocation to fisheries is relatively modest yet the European fisheries industry is extremely dependent on the European budget. Given the disappointment surrounding the negotiations on the Inter-institutional agreement on the financial perspective, the amounts entered in the Commission's Preliminary Draft Budget should be considered as the bare minimum required for the operation of the CFP and as such should be maintained or, where they have been cut, restored.

## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Broadly welcomes the proposals for the Fisheries Budget in 2007, despite the fact that the resources decided upon under the Financial Perspective for 2007-2013 are insufficient to meet the needs of the fisheries sector at a time of continued crisis in the fishing industry, characterised by smaller catches, lower income and increased costs, particularly for fuel;
2. Regrets, in this context, that the amounts entered in the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB) for fisheries, which represent the absolute minimum required for the operation of the Common Fisheries Policy, have suffered fresh cuts in the Council's draft budget (DB), particularly as regards payment appropriations, and therefore calls for the initial PDB figures to be restored;
3. Expresses, moreover, its concern at the cuts in allocations for staff salaries proposed by the Council, which would have a particularly detrimental effect on the efficient functioning of DG FISH; calls, therefore, for the amounts put forward by the Commission to be restored.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007 - Section III - Commission	
<b>Procedure number</b>	2006/2018(BUD)	
<b>Committee responsible</b>	BUD	
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	PECH 26.9.2006	
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>		
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Miguélez Ramos 14.2.2006	
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>		
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	11.7.2006	28.8.2006
<b>Date adopted</b>	3.10.2006	
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 17	–: 1
	0: 0	
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Stavros Arnautakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Iles Braghetto, David Casa, Paulo Casaca, Zdzisław Kazimierz Chmielewski, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Alfred Gomolka, Pedro Guerreiro, Ian Hudghton, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Philippe Morillon, Seán Ó Neachtain, Catherine Stihler, Margie Sudre, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna	
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Josu Ortuondo Larrea, Carl Schlyter	
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>		
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>	...	