

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

PROVISIONAL
2004/0071(CNS)

05 August 2004

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol defining, for the period 3 December 2003 to 2 December 2007, the fishing opportunities and the financial compensation provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Mauritius on fishing in the waters of Mauritius
(COM(2004) 197 – C5-0179/2004 – 2004/0071(CNS))

Draftswoman: Luisa Morgantini

PA_Leg

PROCEDURE

The Committee on Development appointed Luisa Morgantini draftswoman at its meeting of 27 July 2004.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting(s) of

At the latter/last meeting it adopted the following amendments by ... votes to ..., with ... abstention(s)/unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: ... (chair(wo)man/acting chair(wo)man), ... (vice-chair(wo)man), ... (vice-chair(wo)man), Luisa Morgantini (draftswoman), ..., ... (for ...), ... (for ... pursuant to Rule 153(2)), ... and

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The present regulation aims to allow the European fishing fleet to continue its fishing in Mauritian waters.

The existing protocol came to an end on the 2 December 2002, but was extended for one year.

Negotiations for a new protocol were finalised on 11 September 2003 establishing the conditions under which Community vessels can fish in Mauritian waters during the period 3 December 2003 to 2 December 2007.

The text initialised by the Commission was only submitted to the European Parliament in April 2004 under Article 300 of the Treaty, not allowing the outgoing Parliament to have a say during its legislature.

The Development Committee protested several times against the late consultation of the EP, and the situation is aggravated this time by the approval at the Council's May meeting of the regulation, without the obligatory EP opinion.

We think, therefore, that a strong message should be sent to the Commission and to Council, so that in the future this situation does not arise again.

We understand that European fishing vessels have an interest in the continuation of fishing activities in the area, and those of the Mauritian authorities in the financial compensation given by the EU, but we are unable to accept that the European Treaty or relations between other European institutions are not being duly observed.

We also continue to press for full coherence between the Common Fisheries Policy and EU European development policy, here once more totally forgotten.

None of the compensation is addressed to the support of traditional local fisheries and nothing is destined to the empowerment of local populations or setting up of SME's or local industries as a means to developed local capacities.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 5a (new)

¹ OJ C ... / Not yet published in OJ.

Considers that the protection of the EU's fisheries interests must be coordinated with the sustainable management of fishery resources in economic, social and environmental terms, and with the development of coastal populations living on fisheries,

Justification

Amendment 2
Recital 5b (new)

Calls on the Commission to continue with its impact assessment studies concerning the sustainable character of the Mauritian agreement,

Justification

Amendment 3
Recital 5c (new)

*

Calls on the Commission to assure that allocated funds are fully applied for the purposes established in the agreement, and to monitor its results on local populations' development, mainly the coastal communities living on traditional fisheries,

Justification

Amendment 4
Recital 5d (new)

Calls for action to encourage the participation of local community organisations based on traditional forms of association, and for due attention to be paid

to the role of women in the processing and marketing of fishery products,

Justification

Amendment 5
Recital 5e (new)

Asks the Commission to ensure that EC rules on inspections and sanitation procedures are not violated by Mauritius,

Justification

Amendment 6
Recital 5f (new)

Demands that an evaluation of the implementation of the agreement be made after the first year, especially in the field of delays caused to fish marketing caused by the request to bring the boats to a given port for additional inspections or boarding of fishermen and observers,

Justification

Amendment 7
Recital 5g (new)

Calls for the necessary resources to be made available to ensure that the conditions of this agreement can be fulfilled in such a way as to permit the development of the Mauritian people,

Justification

Amendment 8
Recital 5h (new)

Calls for the attention of the Commission and Council that Article 300° of the Treaty means that Parliament must give its opinion before the negotiations are closed; therefore strongly protests that the Commission only submitted the text to the European Parliament 7 months after the end of the negotiations and 4 months after its previewed entry into force, and that Council agreed on the text at its May meeting, not waiting for the European Parliament's opinion.

Justification