

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

PROVISIONAL
2004/0070(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 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006 the tuna fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Democratic Republic of Madagascar on fishing of Madagascar
(COM(2004) 218 – C5-0186/2004 – 2004/0070(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 tuna fishing fleet to continue its fishing in Madagascan waters.

The existing protocol came to an end on 21 May 2004.

The present protocol covers the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006.

It was initialised on 8 September 2003, but 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 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 that the Madagascan authorities need the financial compensation provided 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 total coherence between the EU Common Fisheries Policy and European development policy, here once more almost forgotten.

In fact only 10,3% of the financial compensation is addressed to the support of traditional fisheries and nothing is destined to the empowerment of local populations, or setting up of SME's or local industries as a means to develop 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)

Considers that the protection of the EU's

¹ OJ C ... / Not yet published in OJ.

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 Madagascar 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 on the role played by women in the

processing and marketing of fishery products,

Justification

Amendment 5
Recital 5e (new)

Asks the Commission to assure that EC rules on inspection and sanitation procedures are not violated by Madagascar,

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 Madagascan people,

Justification

Amendment 8
Article 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