

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Development*

PROVISIONAL  
**2005/0173(CNS)**

29.9.2005

## **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 setting out, for the period from 18 January 2005 to 17 January 2011, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Seychelles on fishing off Seychelles  
(COM(2005)0421 – C6-0000/2005 – 2005/0173(CNS))

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Union's development co-operation policy and the common fisheries policy (CFP) must be consistent, complementary and co-ordinated, contributing together to poverty reduction in the countries concerned and to sustainable development.

The EU has committed itself to ensure the sustainable character of fisheries worldwide, defined at the Johannesburg summit, maintaining or restoring stock levels with a view to producing the maximum sustainable yield.

The EU has accepted the FAO "Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries".

The EU presence in distant fishing grounds is a legitimate objective, and must not forget that the interest of Union's fisheries ought to be protected alongside the interest in developing the nations with whom agreements are signed.

The present agreement must observe the EP's report on "An Integrated framework for fisheries partnership agreements with third countries" (A5-0303/2003).

This agreement must go along the lines of all similar agreements signed with other nations in the area, therefore promoting regional development.

In September 2004 the European Community and the Seychelles initialled the new protocol establishing the technical and financial conditions under which the Community fishing vessels can keep fishing the Seychelles waters from 18 January 2005 to 17 January 2011.

The new protocol grants fishing possibilities for 40 tuna seiners and 12 surface longliners, boats coming from Spain, Portugal, Italy and France.

The financial compensation is fixed at 4,125,000 Euros per year, for a total of 24,750,000 Euros.

36% of the financial contribution will be used for defining and implementing a sectoral fishing policy in Seychelles, with a view to promote responsible fishing and sustainable fisheries in its waters. No special mention is made in the protocol for the development of activities of the local populations living on fisheries.

Parliament is consulted one year after the agreement was initialled. During this period one might assume that European boats kept fishing Seychelles waters under conditions agreed by the two parties.

Parliament's consultation is therefore a farce. Parliament has not received an evaluation of the former agreement that came to an end in January 2005, wasn't informed of the negotiation mandate presumed given by Council to the Commission, and wasn't also informed of the development of the negotiations.

What would happen if Parliament refuses the present initialled agreement? Would Seychelles

have the right to ask for the compensation regarding boats that have continued to fish their waters? Certainly they would have that right. But what budgetary authority could justify those expenditures?

It is time that Parliament changes the present situation regarding fisheries agreements with third countries. Commission and Council must reach a common agreement on conditions that could give a useful meaning to Parliament's consultation. If this should not be the case the Fisheries Committee should lead Parliament's reaction to the present status quo, not rejecting the final argument of voting no to fisheries agreements submitted under present circumstances.

## AMENDMENTS

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

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Text proposed by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

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Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1  
Recital 4 a (new)

***(4a) EC financial compensation should also be used for the development of coastal populations living on fisheries and the creation of small local conservation and processing fishing industries;***

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<sup>1</sup> Not yet published in OJ.