OPINION

of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the small-scale and artisanal fisheries and the CFP reform (2011(2292)(INI))

Rapporteur: Barbara Matera
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

– having regard to its resolution of 15 December 2005 on Women’s networks: fishing, farming and diversification,


– having regard to the May 2008 study by the Policy Department on ‘The role of women in the Sustainable Development of European Fisheries Areas’,

A. whereas women play a fundamental role in fishing- and aquaculture-related areas, fish processing, marketing and management and provide other forms of support for those working in the fishing industry;

B. whereas the work of women in the fisheries sector needs to be made visible, since 85% of the women working in this sector work in small-scale and artisanal fisheries, and whereas in many of Europe’s coastal regions these fisheries constitute their main source of income;

C. whereas women are economically discriminated against in the fishing sector, and whereas they are paid less than men for the same work and, in many cases, their work has no legal recognition, meaning that they are unable to access adequate social protection; whereas doing this work also exposes them to a high level of risk and has a significant impact on their health;

D. whereas women often handle the administrative side of fisheries undertakings, taking responsibility for financial matters, harbour duties, unloading, obtaining supplies for, and assisting, fishermen, fish auctions, book-keeping and net making and mending, and whereas unrecognised – and in many cases unpaid – work by women increases when the industry is faced with a crisis and they are unable to access aid when fishing activities have ceased;

E. whereas there are still too many legal and social obstacles preventing women’s full participation in the area of representation in the fisheries sector, and whereas women are even banned from involvement in the decision-making bodies of some communities and associations;

F. whereas the specific disorders that affect women working in the fisheries sector are not recognised as occupational diseases;

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1 OJ C 286 E, 23.11.2006, p. 519.
1. Stresses the importance of gender mainstreaming and incorporating the principle of equality between women and men in all areas of EU fisheries policy reform;

2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take steps to promote and achieve greater recognition, both legal and social, for the work of women in the fisheries sector, and to ensure that women who work full- or part-time for family undertakings or assist their spouses, thereby contributing to their own economic sustainability and that of their families, are given legal recognition or social benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by people with self-employed status, in particular by applying Directive 2010/41/EU, and that their social and economic rights are guaranteed, including equal wages, unemployment benefits if they lose their jobs (temporarily or permanently), the right to a pension, work-life balance, access to maternity leave, access to social security and free health care, and work-place health and safety, and other social and economic rights including insurance covering risks at sea;

3. Welcomes the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020 priority to increase employment, territorial cohesion and social inclusion in fisheries-dependent communities under an ‘agenda for new skills and jobs’; calls, in this context, on the Commission and the Member States to ensure, throughout the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform, that equal opportunity between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective will be promoted during the various stages of implementation of the EMFF, including its design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

4. Emphasises that the active participation of women in fishing-related activities helps firstly to preserve specific cultural traditions and practices and, secondly, to ensure the survival of their communities, thereby safeguarding the cultural diversity of the regions concerned;

5. Calls on the Member States to take into account the importance of the economic, social and cultural roles of women in the fishing industry so that they can have access to social benefits, and as a means to ensure a balanced gender representation in fisheries-related occupations;

6. Calls on the Commission to ensure that women are allocated quotas in the fishing industry and to clearly include in legislation the principle of co-ownership for spouses, in terms of the allocation of quotas;

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to undertake a social study aimed at assessing the impact that the implementation of quotas will have within fishing communities, in order to monitor potential social changes in these communities, by using social indicators such as education level, the contribution of wives and partners, health, the age of children, the willingness of mothers to pass on the fishing profession to their children and the well-being of families and communities;

8. Stresses the need to allocate European Maritime and Fisheries Fund financing in such a way as to make the fisheries sector more women-friendly by redesigning the sector and providing proper facilities (such as changing rooms on boats or in ports);

9. Urges the Commission to support specific projects with the objective of recognising, promoting and diversifying the role of women in fishing-related areas, and considers that
particular attention should be paid to modernising fishing boats in order to improve working and hygiene conditions on board, product quality and energy efficiency, and to ensure selectivity of gear;

10. Maintains that an EU support programme should be drawn up for small-scale fishing, making use of a range of resources, especially in financial terms (including the future EMFF and the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for fishery and aquaculture products), in order to respond to the specific problems of this sector and support sustainable locally-based management of the fisheries involved, and taking into account the problems affecting women in the sector;

11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide data and statistics, segregated by gender, on type of employment (e.g. full-time, part-time, occasional), status (self-employment, salaried, collaborative spouse) and type of production (small-, medium- or large-scale in fisheries and aquaculture) and to recognise categories of workers in this sector who are not included in the fisheries’ employment statistics, e.g. shellfish gatherers;

12. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support and recognise the rights of fishers’ spouses or partners to be eligible for membership of, and stand for election to, fisheries organisations at all levels in the Member States; underlines the need to promote and enhance women’s effective participation in representative, decision-making and advisory bodies in the fisheries sector at European, national and regional levels; welcomes the Commission’s intention to extend the role of the Advisory Councils and calls on the Commission and the Member States to increase the participation of women’s fisheries and aquaculture organisations in the Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA) and the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs);

13. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support, through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the Structural Funds, the provision of more occupational training and education to women working in the fisheries sector, in order to give them greater access to technical and managerial jobs; also calls for channels to be set up with a view to improving the dissemination of information about training opportunities and the funding available to make use of them;

14. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to allocate greater financing to community research programmes in aquaculture activities which enhance growth in the fisheries sector as a means to create new jobs in which women should be included on the basis of quotas;

15. Highlights the importance of women’s participation in research projects focusing on the repercussions of restructuring of the fisheries sector, bearing in mind the fact that women’s experience constitutes an invaluable contribution, and the need to guarantee that the gender dimension is duly taken into account;

16. Stresses that the EU should target its investments having potential for job creation at global fisheries’ markets by selling its technology and know-how in order to tackle any challenges relating to issues of safety and sustainability, and through these measures also support the work of women in this field;
17. Highlights the specific situation of female shellfishers (a job carried out principally by women aged over 50, who suffer health problems as a result of their work) and reiterates its call, therefore, for the Commission to draw up a specific pilot project covering all these points and providing solutions to the problems resulting from this work; urges the Commission and the Member States to provide legal recognition for periods of enforced inactivity for public-health reasons (toxins, natural disasters, discharges, oil spills), and to recognise certain conditions or illnesses that affect women working in the artisanal fishing and shellfishing sector (such as rheumatic and bone disorders);
### RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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<th>Date adopted</th>
<th>24.4.2012</th>
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| **Result of final vote** | +: 24  
| | -: 1  
| | 0: 0  |
| **Members present for the final vote** | Emine Bozkurt, Andrea Češková, Iratxe García Pérez, Zita Gurmai, Mikael Gustafsson, Mary Honeyball, Sophia in ’t Veld, Nicole Kiill-Nielsen, Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Astrid Lulling, Barbara Matera, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Angelika Niebler, Siiri Oviir, Antonia Parvanova, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Marc Tarabella, Britta Thomsen, Marina Yannakoudakis, Anna Záborská, Inês Cristina Zuber |
| **Substitute(s) present for the final vote** | Franziska Katharina Brantner, Christa Klaß, Ana Miranda, Mariya Nedelcheva, Katarína Neveďalová, Antigoni Papadopoulou |