



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2011/2290(INI)

22.5.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy – Overarching Communication
(2011/2290(INI))

Rapporteur: Isabella Lövin

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that an in-depth reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is needed, due to its failure to meet fully its objectives, internally and externally, during the years it has been operational;
2. Recalls the obligation in Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which stipulates that the EU must take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries, including, in particular, the Common Fisheries Policy;
3. Emphasises that sustainable fishing and maintaining stocks above levels that can produce Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) will be of huge environmental, social and economic advantage, as the environment will not be degraded, fishing communities would have a secure future, and the fisheries sector would be profitable without need of public support. Stresses that applying the ecosystem and precautionary approach and best scientific data in drawing up multiannual fisheries management plans and ensuring that the CFP contributes to achieving good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020, in line with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, are factors that are vital in ensuring the long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability of the EU fishing sector and to meet objectives of the EU 2020 strategy;
4. Recalls that the world's oceans not only provide nutrition, food security and livelihood for 500 million people worldwide and at least 50 % of their animal protein for 400 million people in the poorest countries through fisheries, but are also crucial in climate change mitigation, as blue carbon sinks represent the largest long-term sink of carbon, provide transport, and are home to some 90 % of the habitat for life on earth;
5. Is concerned at the heavy dependence of EU markets on imports of fisheries and aquaculture products, as more than 60% of all fisheries products used in the EU are imported to a significant extent from developing countries; stresses that the best option for reducing dependence on imports is to recover and maintain European fish stocks to a level above those capable of producing MSY;
6. Stresses that imported fisheries and aquaculture products should be subject to the same environmental, hygiene and social standards as European domestic production, including full 'sea-to-table' traceability, and is of the view that developing countries will need financial and technical assistance in order to reach the same standards but also to more effectively combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;
7. Opposes the adoption of Transferable Fishing Concessions (TFC) schemes, especially in RFMOs and in international waters, since they limit the scope of developing countries to develop their own fisheries sectors;
8. Opposes the privatisation of marine resources; considers it unacceptable to propose a

market for the transfer of fishing rights between private companies;

9. Stresses that any access to fisheries resources in developing countries must respect not only Article 62 of UNCLOS regarding surplus stocks but also Articles 69 and 70 on the rights of land-locked and geographically disadvantaged States within the region, especially with respect to the nutritional and socioeconomic needs of local populations;
10. Reiterates the basic condition of surplus in UNCLOS when accessing fish stocks in third countries' waters; emphasises the importance of properly and scientifically establishing the surplus; stresses that the CFP must provide for transparency and exchange of all relevant information between the EU and partner third countries concerning the total fishing effort for the stocks concerned by national and, where relevant, foreign vessels;
11. Reiterates that the future CFP must be guided by principles of good governance including, inter alia, transparency and access to information in accordance with the Aarhus Convention, including to the evaluations of Sustainable Partnership Agreements (SFAs);
12. Emphasises that the EU should promote sustainable resource management in third countries, and therefore calls on the EU to step up actions to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities; stresses that Sustainable Fisheries Agreements should be more focused on scientific research and data collection, monitoring, control and surveillance; to this end, the EU should direct the appropriate financial, technical and human resources support to partner third countries;
13. Reiterates that the CFP must be coherent with development and environment policies, including the protection of marine ecosystems; calls, therefore, for action to improve and expand scientific knowledge, as well as for stronger international cooperation in order to ensure better performance;
14. Reiterates that all EU nationals must abide, wherever they operate, by the rules and regulations of the CFP, including its environmental and social regulations.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	14.5.2012
Result of final vote	+: 19 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Véronique De Keyser, Nirj Deva, Catherine Grèze, Eva Joly, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theoharous, Ivo Vajgl
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Kriton Arsenis, Emer Costello, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Krzysztof Lisek, Isabella Lövin
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Ioan Enciu