

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



session documents

ENGLISH EDITION

26 January 1993

A3-0011/93



REPORT

of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development

on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation relating to the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period 1 January 1992 to 30 September 1993, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the EEC and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations

(COM(92) 0012 final - C3-0085/92)

Rapporteur: Mr Herman A. VERBEEK

DOC_EN\RR\220\220662

PE 203.168/fin.
Or. FR

Consultation procedure requiring a single reading
Cooperation procedure (first reading)

**|| Cooperation procedure (second reading) requiring the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament
*** Parliamentary assent requiring the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

DA

DE

GR

EN

ES

FR

IT

NL

PT

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Procedural page	3
A. Amendments to the Commission proposal	4
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6
Opinion of the Committee on Budgets	8
Opinion of the Committee on Development and Cooperation	10

By letter of 4 March 1992 the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation relating to the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period 1 January 1992 to 30 September 1993, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the agreement between the EEC and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations.

At the sitting of 13 March 1992 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Development and Cooperation for their opinions.

At its meeting of 1/2 October 1992 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Verbeek rapporteur.

At its meeting of 26/27 January 1993 it considered the Commission proposal and draft report.

At that meeting, on the recommendation of its Subcommittee on Fisheries, it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Borgo, chairman; Vazquez Fouz and Graefe zu Baringdorf, vice-chairmen; Verbeek, rapporteur; Bocklet, Böge (for Keppelhoff-Wiechert) da Cunha Oliveira (for Thareau), Dalsass, Dessylas (for Ainardi), Fantuzzi, Funk, Kofoed, McCartin, McCubbin, Maher (for Garcia), Marck, Mottola, Navarro, Sierra Bardaji, Sonneveld, Welsh and Woltjer (for Rothe).

The opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Development and Cooperation are attached.

The report was tabled on 26 January 1993.

The deadline for tabling amendments is 12 noon on 4 February 1993.

A

Proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation relating to the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period 1 January 1992 to 30 September 1993, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the EEC and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations

Commission text¹

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)
Article 2a (new)

During the final year the Protocol will be in force and before the conclusion of any agreement to have it renewed, the Commission shall submit a report to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of the Agreement.

¹ For full text see COM(92) 0012 final - OJ No. C .

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation relating to the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period 1 January 1992 to 30 September 1993, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the EEC and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(92) 0012 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty (C3-0085/92),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A3-0011/93),
 - having regard to Article 61 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,
 - having regard to the Lomé Convention,
1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendment and in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ No. C , p.

B
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENT

The Fisheries Agreement Protocol between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the EEC, which was signed on 1 January 1992, expired on 31 December 1991. The Protocol now under discussion, which was initialled on 15 October 1991, covers a period of 21 months from 1 January 1992 to 30 September 1993.

The Protocol provides fishing opportunities for 42 ocean-going tuna seiners (as against 44 previously) and a catch of 6000 tonnes. As pointed out in the previous report, these opportunities provide a safeguard for the vessel owners should migratory species not be found in their normal grounds further to the north or in the direction of Madagascar.

This agreement marks a considerable cutback in the fishing rights granted to Community vessels since the most important section concerning fishing for shrimp and other crustaceans has been deleted.

The financial compensation to be provided by the EEC has been reduced from ECU 2 150 000 a year in the previous agreement to ECU 300 000 a year, a drop of 86%. If the catch exceeds the 6000 tonnes agreed on, the amount may be increased at a rate of ECU 50 per tonne.

The funding of the research programmes is set at ECU 180 000 a year (as against ECU 1 950 000 previously), i.e. a reduction of 81%. The reconnaissance campaign, for which funding of ECU 300 000 a year had been provided, will not be continued.

Given the uncertain nature of thunnidae catches, no financial contribution is expected from the vessel owners.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

Mozambique is now emerging from 16 years of war. Its annual per capita GNP, \$80, is the lowest in the whole of Africa. With its 2500 km long coastline and continental shelf of 70 000 km², fishing may prove an important area for development. The resources found in the sea can be brought into play very quickly to meet the needs of a population for whom famine has been the daily lot over the last decade.

In these circumstances it would be difficult for us to accept a fisheries agreement which was based solely on the commercial criteria.

No information has been given to us on the utilization of the fishing rights granted under the last Protocol. We are, however, very pleased with the quality of the information provided by one of the research centres in Mozambique on the state of crustacean stocks, which has provided a basis for discussions. The Mozambique Government made a proposal consistent with the results of this

research, namely to make a big cut in shrimp fishing. It proposed a quota of 700 tonnes for deep-sea shrimps only, but this was judged to be unusable by the Commission and the proposal was rejected.

At the present time 35 small industrial vessels (20-35 metres) run by jointly owned companies (Mozambique/Japan or Mozambique/Spain) are working in Mozambique's territorial waters.

Your rapporteur regrets that the amount allocated for experimental work was not used to the full. The work done by the Marie-Christine in 1990 made very clear how difficult it was to make use of the stocks as well as drawing attention to the abundance to be found in certain sectors. Here again the Mozambique State made good its promises by providing the Commission with a detailed paper on the subject.

The research budget has been severely cut back. Fishing research, if it is to be effective, must be carried out over a long period and 'stop-go' agreements make it hard to bring teams of Mozambican researchers together. It is true that Mozambique does occasionally find funds (at the present time Danish money has enabled work to start on a development plan for the fisheries sector) but it would be more constructive if there were more stability in our contributions to the funding of research centres in ACP countries.

The fisheries agreements with Mozambique point up the limitations of purely commercial agreements which, in actual fact, are of benefit to only a very small number of European shipowners. Has the time not come to think of a wider-ranging relationship which would take account of the development needs of the ACP States as well as the tremendous know-how to be found in the European fishing industry (before, during and after production) which, for want of any scope left in Europe, is in danger of disappearing?

We hope this factor will be borne in mind once negotiations recommence in a few months' time.

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

Letter from the Chairman of the committee to Mr BORGIO, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development

Brussels, 24 April 1992

Subject: Proposal for a Council regulation on the fisheries agreement with Mozambique
(COM(92) 12 - C3-85/92)

Dear Mr Borgia,

At its meeting of 23-24 April 1992 the Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal.

The committee has noted that the cost of financial compensation to be granted to Mozambique amounts to ECU 240 000 per year for 1992/1993 (up to 30 September 1993). This sum may be provided for out of the 1992 budget as part of the appropriations under Article 420.

This being so, the committee has issued a favourable opinion on the proposal, while expressing concern at the extent of the information provided to Parliament, and has therefore adopted the following amendments.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas van der VRING

The following were present for the vote: von der Vring, chairman; Pasty, 2nd vice-chairman; Cornelissen, 3rd vice-chairman; Arias Cañete, draftsman; Cassidy, Colom i Naval, Elles, Goedmakers, Marques Mendes, Miranda da Silva and Wynn.

30 April 1992

AMENDMENTS

Third recital a (new)

Whereas, in view of the importance of improving the level of information provided to the budgetary authority, the Commission should issue every year a statement on the application of the agreement so as to facilitate the taking of decisions in the context of the annual budgetary procedure,

Article 2a (new)

The Commission shall provide the budgetary authority each year with a detailed report on the application of this agreement.

OPINION

of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

Letter from the Chairman of the committee to Mr BORGIO, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development

Brussels, 23 April 1992

Subject: Proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) relating to the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period 1 January 1992 to 30 September 1993, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations
(COM(92) 0012 final - C3-0085/92)

Dear Mr BORGIO,

At its meeting of 23 April 1992 the Committee on Development and Cooperation considered the above proposal and adopted the following opinion in the form of a letter.

The Committee on Development and Cooperation would remind the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of its previous reports and opinions on other fisheries agreements concluded with various ACP countries, in particular the GUERMEUR report on fisheries agreements with the developing countries adopted by the European Parliament on 19 February 1987¹. Our committee believes that Mr Guermeur's report should constitute the basic reference for any agreement of this kind.

Our committee, moreover, has always emphasized the need to conclude fisheries agreements with the ACP States which are of mutual benefit both to those countries and to the EEC Member States. Legally speaking, there is a commercial aspect to fisheries agreements but, at the same time, the Committee on Development has always urged that such agreements should include a development component encompassing aspects such as the funding of scientific and technological programmes in the fisheries sector, study grants, the landing of a percentage of catches in the country of origin, the use of local crews and other issues, which have hitherto not been included in fisheries agreements, such as fisheries technology transfer, joint ventures, ex-post assessment, regional aspects of fisheries agreements, etc.

7 April 1992

¹ A2-0204/86 - OJ No. C 76, 23.32.1987

The Committee on Development and Cooperation having regard to the above-mentioned points and to the lack of a Commission report analysing the results of the previous fisheries agreement with Mozambique,

1. Notes that fishing rights apply to only 42 tuna vessels, with no licences being granted to shrimp trawlers as was the case in the previous agreement, which will no doubt help to conserve the species;
2. Points out that, as the present agreement is restricted to tuna-fishing only, the financial compensation (ECU 300 000) and the sum earmarked for Community participation in scientific fishery programmes (ECU 180 000) have been substantially reduced;
3. Notes that the present agreement does not provide for fees to be paid by shipowners, as was the case in the previous agreement (ECU 20 per tonne of tuna caught within Mozambique's waters);
4. Notes with indignation that the Commission has nevertheless paid more attention in the present agreement to the commercial interests of Community fishing vessels than to the need to implement a development and cooperation policy with Mozambique;
5. Regrets that the present agreement makes no provision for joint ventures and calls on the Commission to ensure that, in future agreements, it provides encouragement for setting up joint ventures for local processing and marketing and the construction of vessels; points out once again that joint ventures are an excellent means of ensuring technology transfer and capital flows;
6. Regrets once again that no provision has been made for regional aspects involving inter alia research and regional exploitation of resources, the funding of regional fishery training centres, a regional policy for awarding study grants, etc.;
7. Calls on the Commission once more to look into the possibility of concluding regional fisheries agreements with the countries in this area;
8. Urges the Commission to submit a report assessing the various fisheries agreements implemented to date;
9. Calls on the Commission to ensure that Community-registered vessels comply with every provision of this agreement;
10. Calls for the EP to be involved in the process of negotiating fisheries agreements through a procedure enabling it to be kept informed of the proposals submitted, so that it can deliver its opinion before the Council issues the Commission with its negotiating brief;
11. Calls for the responsible committee of the EP to be informed of the progress of the negotiations so that it can make its views known to the Commission;

12. Calls on the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development to;

- take account of this opinion by the Committee on Development and Cooperation when drawing up its report,
- approve the proposal.

Yours sincerely

(sgd) Henri SBY

The following were present for the vote: Saby, chairman; Chiabrande, vice-chairman; Daly, Mantovani (for Bindi), McGowan, Mendes Bota, Schmidbauer, Simons, Tindemans, and Garcia (for de Montesquiou Fezensac).