

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

39th Meeting
27 November 2012, Brussels, Belgium

RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 39th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels
on 27 November 2012

Resolution on **The Reform of EU Common Fisheries Policy**

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Skúli Helgason (Social Democratic Alliance, Iceland)
Mr Pat the Cope Gallagher (ALDE, Ireland)

adopted unanimously

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. Taking note of the fact that the Common Fisheries Policy of the EU is not part of the EEA Agreement and that the EEA/EFTA States currently deal bilaterally with the European Commission on this matter; however taking note of the fact that trade in fish and other marine products is based on chapter 2 "Agricultural and fishery products", article 20 and protocol 9 of the EEA Agreement;
- B. Having regard to the European Commission's communication entitled 'Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy' (COM(2011)0417); to the proposal of 13 July 2011 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy (COM(2011)0425); to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (COM(2011)0804); to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products (COM(2011)0416); to the Commission communication on the External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (COM(2011)0424); to the Commission report on Reporting Obligations under Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy (COM(2011)0418);
- C. Having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 25 February 2010 on the Green Paper on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (P7_TA(2010)0039);

- D. Having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 16 February 2012 on the contribution of the common fisheries policy to the production of public goods (P7_TA(2012)0052);
- E. Having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 12 May 2011 on the European fisheries sector crisis due to the rise in oil prices (P7_TA(2011)0234);
- F. Having regard to the European Parliament legislative resolution of 14 March 2012 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund, as regards certain provisions relating to financial management for certain Member States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability (COM(2011)0484 – C7-0219/2011 – 2011/0212(COD));
- G. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 September 2012 on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy – Overarching Communication (P7_TA-PROV(2012)0336);
- H. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 September 2012 on reporting obligations under Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy (P7_TA-PROV(2012)0335)
- I. Recalling EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee resolution on the Common Fisheries Policy and the EEA adopted on 29 March 2010;
- J. Having regard to the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee resolution from 27 June 2007 on 'EU Future Maritime Policy and the EEA';
1. Considers that the common fisheries policy (both wild fisheries and aquaculture sector) needs a deep and ambitious reform in order to guarantee the future of both fisheries resources and fishermen;
 2. Considers that the current reform is vital for the continued existence of the European fishing industry; emphasises that this opportunity must not be squandered as any failure will diminish chances of survival of fish species and fisheries sector as such as a result;
 3. Underlines the necessity of ensuring that the fisheries sector is an economically sustainable and self reliant sector;
 4. However, insists that the reformed CFP must be seen in the context of the socio-economic reality and the recent unemployment rise that hit many Union's coastal areas;
 5. Highlights the potential value of increased sharing of lessons learnt from past reforms in the EU, Norway and Iceland and the application of principles of ecological and economic sustainability;

6. Calls on the EEA States to cooperate on proper training and education schemes in best practice in different areas of the sector, thus providing incentives for younger generation to contribute to a economically viable and ecological fisheries and aquaculture sector;
7. Is concerned that the CFP reform could in the short term contribute to unemployment, negatively affecting coastal communities and islands; therefore highlights the need for accompanying socio-economic measures assisting transformation of the sector;
8. Supports the management of fisheries resources in accordance with the principle of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), in order to achieve economically sustainable fisheries sector, to eradicate overfishing as well as economic overcapacity,
9. Urges that the objective of achieving MSY based on fishing mortality to be established as soon as possible, taking into account scientific data and as well as the socioeconomic consequences
10. Stresses that an ecosystem-based fisheries management must be introduced as a matter of urgency as economic and social factors depend on ecological health in the long term as well;
11. Recommends that incentives. e.g. priority access, be granted to motivate sustainable and environment-friendly fishing methods;
12. Notes that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is one of the most serious threats facing the biodiversity of the world's oceans;
13. Notes that recent fluctuations in oil prices have negative impacts on economic viability of the fisheries sector; therefore recommends to the EEA countries to introduce improved fuel efficiency standards as well as invest commonly in research in this area, and to recommends a specific programme for communities living fisheries sector in coastal areas and islands;
14. Underlines that industry responsibility is essential to the current CFP reform;
15. Agrees that compliance of all stakeholders with the set rules and their enforcement by Member States are elemental prerequisites for a success of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy;
16. Welcomes the steps proposed for implementation of a landing obligation; however, recommends that priority be given to the introduction of measures to help avoid and minimise the levels of discards as well as to the introduction of appropriate incentives;
17. Urges EU Member States to introduce technical measures that would accompany the landing obligation in order to reduce unwanted by-catch and to encourage selective fishing practices;

18. In this respect calls on the EEA States and the European Commission to promote partnerships between fishermen and joint research in order to assist in the development of new fishing techniques;
19. Supports the idea of establishing regionalisation and subsidiarity based on bottom-up approach as one of the main instruments of this new CFP governance, however stresses that this approach must not lead to regional discrimination or to disruption of the common implementation of fisheries policy;
20. Concurs with the view expressed in the proposal of the European Commission regarding the necessary adaptation to differences amongst the European Union regions, in particular with regard to the situation of coastal areas and outermost regions;
21. Underlines the importance of a simple and special regime for small island and inshore fisheries;
22. Supports a strengthened role of the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs); and awaits further proposals in this regard by the EU institutions;
23. Stresses that the position of European seafood products in the market is depending on appropriate marketing, promotion and labelling of seafood;
24. In this context reiterates the need for promotion of sustainable fisheries, other environmental considerations as well as human rights and socio-economic standards by means of their integration into bilateral fisheries agreements with non-EU countries in order to enhance the reputation and legitimacy of the Common Fisheries Policy; however is concerned with the negative consequences of these goals with regard to loss of fishing opportunities in the concerned countries, recommends therefore increased efforts at international fora in order to establish common approach as much as possible;
25. Highlights the close interaction of the fisheries sector with the marine and maritime areas, therefore stresses the importance of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP);
26. Furthermore stresses the need for flexibility of the CFP and cooperation with the EEA EFTA States in order to enable fast adjustment to changes in the marine ecosystem due to climate changes;
27. Underlines that scientific research and cooperation in this field, including between EU and EEA EFTA States play a vital role provision of sound advice for a sustainable management of fisheries;
28. Deplores the main reason for lack of basic scientific data on the majority of stocks is the inadequate reporting by EU Member States; recommends that the EU institutions agree on an effective quality data collection for scientists, incl. provision of technical and financial assistance from the EU budget for the collection and analysis of reliable data by EU Member States;

29. Recommends a deeper mutually beneficial cooperation of EU and EEA EFTA States in the field of research and collection of first-hand data on straddling and migrating stocks between Iceland, Norway, Faroese Islands and the EU in order to provide for reliable and up-to-date information;
30. Raises concern with regard to the proposal to introduce mandatory ‘Transferable Fishing Concessions’ (TFCs) and/or Fishing Concessions (FCs), contained in the basic regulation, due to the potential for a concentration and creation of monopolies;
31. Demands sufficient financial means to support the ambitions of the reform of the CFP, despite the current situation of financial and economic crisis and over the next ten years in the EU;
32. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA Joint Committee.