Basic information

2016/2016(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions **Subject** 3.15.03 Fishing fleets, safety of fishing vessels 4.70.06 Outlying and outermost regions, overseas countries and territories	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	RODUST Ulrike (S&D)	01/03/2016
	Shadow rapporteur MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia (PPE) TOMAŠIĆ Ruža (ECR) MARINHO E PINTO António (ALDE) FERREIRA João (GUE/NGL) ENGSTRÖM Linnéa (Verts/ALE)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	GONZÁLEZ PONS Esteban (PPE)	03/02/2016
REGI Regional Development	OMARJEE Younous (GUE/NGL)	17/03/2016

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	VELLA Karmenu

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

10/03/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/03/2017	Vote in committee		
31/03/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0138/2017	Summary
26/04/2017	Debate in Parliament		
27/04/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0195/2017	Summary
27/04/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/04/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/2016(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/8/05600

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE593.957	22/12/2016	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE599.497	06/02/2017	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE589.280	10/02/2017	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE595.662	07/03/2017	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0138/2017	31/03/2017	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0195/2017	27/04/2017	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2017)472	07/09/2017	

Management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions

2016/2016(INI) - 31/03/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted an own-initiative report by Ulrike RODUST (S&D, DE) on the management of the fishing fleets in the Outermost Regions (ORs).

As a reminder, the outermost regions include nine EU regions, which are part of France (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin), Portugal (Madeira and Azores) and Spain (Canary Islands).

Specificities of the ORs: Members considered that the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), designed to tackle the problems and challenges of continental Europe, can only provide a limited response to the specific characteristics of fisheries in the ORs. They called, therefore, for the **development of a strategy for each regional sea basin** tailored to the specific situation of each of the outermost regions.

Stressing the presence in the ORs of a wide variety of small communities that are highly dependent on **traditional, coastal and small-scale fishing**, the report called for the need to:

- involve local fisheries in achieving food security for local communities;
- protect **marine biological resources** around the ORs;
- strengthen support for relevant **scientific research projects** given that the OR seabed is a veritable living laboratory of biodiversity;
- maintain the balance **between fishing capacity and opportunities** in accordance with the precautionary principle and taking into account socio-economic realities.

Members observed the difficulty, or even impossibility, for certain fishermen in the ORs to access credit and/or insurance for their vessels, causing **safety problems** and economic constraints for these fishermen.

Making better use of possibilities provided under Article 349 of the Treaty and the CFP: Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union comprises the specific features of ORs. These include remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a few products.

Members called for the **full application of Article 349 TFEU** in the European Union's policies, regulations, funds and programmes relating to fisheries, particularly in the EMFF, in order to respond to the specific difficulties encountered by the ORs.

The report recommended, *inter alia*:

- setting up a separate Advisory Council for the ORs;
- better use of the possibilities provided for in the EMFF to support this kind of local development in the ORs;
- establishing fisheries local action groups (FLAGs), which are recognised to be an important channel for support and for opportunities to diversify fishing activities;
- stepping up the fight against **illegal, unreported and unregulated** (IUU) **fishing** undertaken in the EEZ of certain ORs;
- speeding up the implementation of the EMFF and to use the opportunities it provides to **invest heavily in fleet modernisation** – improvements to safety, on-board hygiene, energy efficiency and quality of fishery products – as well as in fishing ports, landing sites and aquaculture, in order to generate new market outlets;
- paying particular attention to the interests of ORs when **fisheries agreements** are concluded with third countries;
- continue with **specific aid schemes** such as special taxation models;
- improving **data collection** on stocks and the assessment of the impact of small-scale vessels in the ORs;
- providing support to aquaculture development projects;
- that the aid intensity for **engine replacement** in the ORs should be increased where scientific evidence indicates that climate conditions and climate change have a decisive negative impact on the ORs' fleets.

The Commission is invited to look into the possibility of establishing an **instrument** specifically dedicated to supporting fisheries in the ORs, along the lines of the POSEI scheme for agriculture in the ORs.

Management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions

2016/2016(INI) - 27/04/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 428 votes to 64, with 118 abstentions, a resolution on the management of the fishing fleets in the Outermost Regions (ORs).

As a reminder, the outermost regions include nine EU regions, which are part of France (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin), Portugal (Madeira and Azores) and Spain (Canary Islands).

Specificities of the ORs: Members considered that the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), designed to tackle the problems and challenges of continental Europe, can only provide a limited response to the specific characteristics of fisheries in the ORs. They called, therefore, for the **development of a strategy for each regional sea basin** tailored to the specific situation of each of the outermost regions.

Stressing the presence in the ORs of a wide variety of small communities that are highly dependent on **traditional, coastal and small-scale fishing**, the resolution called for the need to:

- involve local fisheries in achieving food security for local communities;
- protect **marine biological resources** around the ORs: only fishing vessels registered in OR ports should be allowed to fish in OR waters;
- strengthen support for relevant **scientific research projects** given that the OR seabed is a veritable living laboratory of biodiversity;

- maintain the balance **between fishing capacity and opportunities** in accordance with the precautionary principle and taking into account socio-economic realities.

Members observed the difficulty, or even impossibility, for certain fishermen in the ORs to access credit and/or insurance for their vessels, causing **safety problems** and economic constraints for these fishermen.

Making better use of possibilities provided under Article 349 of the Treaty and the CFP: Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union comprises the specific features of ORs. These include remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a few products.

Members called for the **full application of Article 349 TFEU** in the European Union's policies, regulations, funds and programmes relating to fisheries, particularly in the EMFF, in order to respond to the specific difficulties encountered by the ORs.

Parliament recommended, *inter alia*:

- setting up a separate Advisory Council for the ORs;
- better use of the possibilities provided for in the EMFF to support this kind of local development in the ORs;
- establishing fisheries local action groups (FLAGs), which are recognised to be an important channel for support and for opportunities to diversify fishing activities;
- stepping up the fight against **illegal, unreported and unregulated** (IUU) **fishing** undertaken in the EEZ of certain ORs;
- speeding up the implementation of the EMFF and to use the opportunities it provides to **invest heavily in fleet modernisation** – improvements to safety, on-board hygiene, energy efficiency and quality of fishery products – as well as in fishing ports, landing sites and aquaculture, in order to generate new market outlets;
- paying particular attention to the interests of ORs when **fisheries agreements** are concluded with third countries;
- continue with **specific aid schemes** such as special taxation models;
- improving **data collection** on stocks and the assessment of the impact of small-scale vessels in the ORs;
- allowing the funding (at EU or national level) of the ORs' artisanal and traditional fishing vessels with a view to developing economic opportunities for all players in the blue economy;
- that the aid intensity for **engine replacement** in the ORs should be increased where scientific evidence indicates that climate conditions and climate change have a decisive negative impact on the ORs' fleets;
- creating better incentives under a future EMFF to encourage young people to work in the maritime economy.

The Commission is invited to look into the possibility of establishing an **instrument** specifically dedicated to supporting fisheries in the ORs, along the lines of the POSEI scheme for agriculture in the ORs.