

"FICHE CONTRADICTOIRE"

Evaluation of the relationship between country programmes and fishery agreements

Recommendations :

Responses of Commission Services :

Follow-up (one year later) :

<p><u>1. EU –FAs should be more selective. They should involve partners ready to cooperate to sustainable fishing practices</u></p> <p>In order to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and to be coherent with the objectives of the country programmes, EU-FAs should only be concluded amongst partners ready to cooperate to set up and enforce sustainable fishing practices. Therefore the FA should be signed and protocols renewed only with those partners who comply with the rules internationally agreed, that is those laid down in the FAO Code of Conduct for sustainable fisheries, and the specific regulations applied in the EEZ concerned. Certain infringements of those rules should exclude partners from FAs or protocols. (page 61 of report)</p>	<p>In conformity with the Green Paper on the Common Fishery Policy (point 5.8 External relations)</p> <p>“The Community should develop partnership agreements in the fisheries sector with the developing coastal states with a view to not only ensure for the Community fleet access to the surplus resources, but also to contribute to the establishment of a framework for policy dialogue and to responsible and sustainable fisheries.”</p> <p>At the World Summit on Sustainable Development The Community subscribed to the aim of global sustainable fisheries including the objective to “maintain or restore the stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later that 2015”</p> <p>The above points are fully subscribed by the Commission.</p>	
<p><u>2. The institutional framework should explicitly reflect the three main dimensions covered by the fisheries agreements.</u></p> <p>These dimensions (access to the resource, sustainable management of marine resources and development activities) should not be mixed in the same negotiation and should not be managed by the same institution.</p>	<p>In conformity with the Green Paper (point 5.8.2 Bilateral co-operation)</p> <p>“Fisheries agreements with developing countries should be articulated with the development co-operation strategies established between the Community and the Third Country partner and contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of such strategies In order to allow for an assessment of value for money, the fisheries agreement should clearly separate the fisheries from the development part.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communication on an “Integrated Framework For Fisheries Partnership Agreements with third Countries “(COM (2002) 637 final) calls for a “clear distinction between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The part of the financial contribution given in 	

<p>2.1 A fisheries agreement should exclusively define the condition under which EU vessels access the coastal states' EEZ</p> <p>(i) The price to access the resource should be financed in total by the shipowners to the coastal state. Each coastal state should negotiate with the partners of its choice within a total sustainable catch agreed with the regional institution. The coastal state will have to share the information about all fishing efforts the grant in their EEZ with the regional institution</p> <p>(ii) More responsive forms of agreements relating compensation payments directly to market prices and catches should be designed.</p> <p>2.2 International institution involved in the sustainable management of marine resources should play a more important role</p> <p>(i) The contribution to MCS and other aspects of resource assessment and management should be seen as a sort of tax of which the overall amount is sized according to the actual cost of the system. This amount could be shared between the vessels (on the basis of their fishing capacity and duration of the fishing campaign) and the public contribution (EC) The contribution should be paid to the regional institution where the EC must have a say as board member. The EC should contribute to finance (part of) the costs of the MCS and NRM activities since they are related to the protection of marine life.</p> <p>(ii) The study concludes that powerful and well equipped multilateral bodies, involving not only the coastal countries but also the flag countries and</p>	<p>exchange of fishing possibilities for European vessels. The private sector shall progressively assume greater responsibility for the financial contribution - The part of the financial contribution devoted to fisheries partnership actions such as stock assessments, control monitoring and surveillance activities.”</p> <p>As mentioned above private sector shall progressively assume greater responsibility for the financial contribution to the price of the resource while the Community financial contribution should mainly cover expenses linked to MCS and NRM activities</p> <p>Contributions to Regional Institutions and to MCS and NRM activities is already in place in certain cases and it is a foreseen possibility in FAs</p> <p>The Commission shares the recommendation but stresses the difficulties to improve the RFO in absence of policy willingness at international level.</p>	
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<p>countries contributing to better resource management would provide a more effective framework to ensure sustainable fishing. These institutions would be in a better position in defining annual sustainable catches for each EEZ, in particular for migratory stocks. The EU should support the involvement of regional institutions in the establishment of sustainable level of catches, in cooperation with the coastal states. A detailed evaluation of the mandate and the effectiveness of the main RFOs should be carried out to help design better functioning institutions. The EC financial contribution to these institutions should be much greater.</p> <p>(iii) Each FA protocol should have a detailed technical annex explaining the scientific basis on which the surplus is allocated to the EU vessels has been assessed, and how the fishing activities will be monitored and evaluated. FA implementation should be systematically evaluated by independent experts and the results made public.</p> <p>(iv) Catch reporting by the EU DWF vessels should be more transparent and standardised so that the same info is shared by MS the EC the coastal state and the corresponding RFO. Technical and financial support to this area could be financed through the Regional or Country Programmes.</p> <p>2.3 Development programmes interventions should be carried out only in the frame of country programmes and financed with aid funds.</p> <p>(i) Contribution to development programmes in fisheries should be drawn from European Aid resources such as EDF, and should be part of the Country Programmes. The amount should depend on needs and priorities identified in the CPs. These contributions should not bear any relation to the terms of the FAs</p> <p>(ii) Country and regional programmes should finance the support for the design of sector wide strategies, in countries where fisheries contribute significantly to the overall wealth and /or to the livelihood of certain vulnerable groups. This should help the coastal state to work out: (a) the way it intends to use the fishery resource, including the benefits expected from foreign DWF, in the framework of a sustainable long term</p>	<p>In conformity with “Communication of the Commission on the Reform of the CFP “Roadmap”” (see point 3.5 International Fisheries – To build, within regional fisheries organisations, new strategic alliances, in particular with coastal developing states). “‘The EC must seek new alliances with Parties, in particular Coastal Developing States, which have similar interests in sustainable commercial fishing activities within the framework of regional fisheries organisations.’”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communication on an “Integrated Framework For Fisheries Partnership Agreements with third Countries “(COM (2002) 637 final) underlines that “the Community will undertake sustainability impact assessment on Fisheries Partnership Agreements on the basis of the best available data and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission is carrying in collaboration with FAO and the SIFAR a feasibility study for a new “all ACP project” aiming at strengthening Developing Countries capacities to formulate and to implement fisheries sector policies in accordance with the code of conduct for responsible fisheries. • The Commission notes that fisheries can be taken into account within the Regional Strategy Papers and the Regional Indicative Programmes concerning the Pacific Region and the Indian Ocean area. For these zones significant amounts of money are available for this sector. To a lesser extent interventions could also be supported in 	
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<p>strategy; (b) the way it intends to manage the resource in cooperation with the RFO and other stakeholders, and (c) the support it needs for doing so.</p> <p>(iii) the impact of FAs on vulnerable groups should be assessed during the FAs evaluations. Should a negative impact be identified, it should be addressed in coordination between the EC services dealing with development and fisheries.</p>	<p>West Africa and Central Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the principle of ownership, support for the design of fisheries sector wide strategies at national level might be considered at the requests of the Countries themselves. • The Communication on FPAs informs that “the Community will undertake sustainability impact assessments of FPAs and impact assessment studies in order to evaluate the impact on the local economy” 	
<p><u>3 Activities depending on FAs should not be promoted</u></p> <p>Activities funded by FAs or depending on compulsory landing (such as processing and canning plants) are unsustainable and therefore this form of dependency should not be promoted in future.</p>	<p>The statement should not be read to imply a systematic negative position vis-à-vis value-added activities that might generate and distribute wealth for the country from using its natural capital. Conversely, the point of high risk and unsustainability associated with relying exclusively on a FA for a major investment is well taken</p>	