

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2013/2150(INI)	Procedure completed
Specific actions in the common fisheries policy for developing the role of women		
Subject		
3.15 Fisheries policy		
4.10.09 Women condition and rights		

Key players			
European Parliament	Joint Committee Responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries Women's Rights and Gender Equality	S&D GARCÍA-HIERRO CARABALLO Dolores	23/04/2013 23/04/2013
		Verts/ALE ROMEVA I RUEDA Raül	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE MATERA Barbara	
		S&D CLIVETI Minodora	
		ALDE BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	
	FEMM Fisheries Women's Rights and Gender Equality		
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner DAMANAKI Maria	

Key events			
12/09/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/09/2013	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		
23/01/2014	Vote in committee		
30/01/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0070/2014	Summary
27/02/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/02/2014	Debate in Parliament		
27/02/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0178/2014	Summary

27/02/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
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Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/2150(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54; Rules of Procedure EP 58
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CJ11/7/13322

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0070/2014	30/01/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0178/2014	27/02/2014	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)447	22/07/2014	EC	

Specific actions in the common fisheries policy for developing the role of women

The Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Womens Rights and Gender Equality adopted a joint own-initiative report by Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo (S&D, ES) and Raúl Romeva i Rueda (Greens/EFA, ES) under Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure on specific actions in the Common Fisheries Policy for developing the role of women.

Members noted that more than 100 000 women worked in the fisheries sector in Member States, 4 % of them in the extractive sector and with jobs linked to the activities of fishing boats, as net-makers, port workers or packers, 30 % in aquaculture, chiefly shellfish gathering on foot, and around 60 % in the processing industry. However, the statistics grossly underestimated the reality of female work in some of these sectors, and the widespread economic crisis in some Member States had led to a growing number of women engaging in activities in the fishing sector, particularly land-based shellfish gathering, as a means of complementing or even ensuring their family income.

The report urged the Commission to launch a specific statistical programme for regions that depended on fishing, paying particular attention to artisanal and coastal fishing, traditional fishing methods and specific marketing channels, and to the work and social and labour conditions of women shellfish gatherers, net-makers and artisanal workers, with the aim of assessing the specific needs associated with womens activity and enhancing the social recognition given to these extremely arduous occupations. The collection of gender-disaggregated data should also covers the catch sector and new indicators should be introduced, such as age, education and training levels, and activity of spouse or partner.

Members called for:

- legal and social recognition to the role played by women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and in the sustainable development of areas that depended on fishing, with the aim of removing all economic, administrative and social barriers that stand in the way of their participation on equal terms;
- regulation and recognition as occupational diseases injuries to joints, back injuries and rheumatic diseases caused by the harsh weather conditions in which women shellfish gatherers, net-makers, processing workers, fishers and sellers have to work, as well as injuries caused by lifting excessive weights;
- the creation (under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and/or other instruments) of specific support mechanisms that can be activated in emergencies (natural disasters), as well as of financial compensation mechanisms to assist fishermen, fisherwomen and their families during temporary fishing bans, especially in areas where fishing is the sole source of earnings;
- financial support for the establishment of womens associations through national and European womens networks, in order to facilitate the exchange of experience, and communicate womens needs and demands, from local government level up to European bodies;
- access to funding for womens organisations in fisheries, aquaculture and related sectors.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2013-2020: Members noted that only one Member State had made use of the opportunities offered by axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund to finance projects whose beneficiaries were women. They urged Member States to seize the opportunities offered by the EMFF in order to, inter alia:

- apply the principle of equal opportunities to operational programmes;
- make the fisheries sector more women-friendly by redesigning the sector and providing suitable facilities (such as changing-rooms on vessels and in ports);
- offer women and girls easier access to training by financing specific training and vocational education and professional recognition of their activity;

- promote business initiatives launched by women, including the economic diversification of certain activities related to the fisheries sector, among them activities such as museology, cultural traditions, crafts, gastronomy and the restaurant industry;
- facilitate soft loan channels that will make it possible to avoid the specific difficulties faced by women in relation to financing projects eligible for inclusion in national programmes under the EMFF.

Basic regulation on the common fisheries policy: Member States were urged to:

- ensure compliance with the objectives of the new common fisheries policy in relation to access to fishery resources based on transparent environmental, social and economic criteria, incorporating the principles of equal treatment and equal opportunities;
- recognise the occupational status of women in the event of temporary cessations of activity, including biological rest periods;

ensure compliance with Directive 2010/41/EU, so that women working full- or part-time in family businesses, as well as women who make their livelihood from such activity without belonging to a family unit, are given legal recognition and social benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by people with self-employed status.

Specific actions in the common fisheries policy for developing the role of women

The European Parliament adopted by 468 votes to 40, with 17 abstentions, a resolution on specific actions in the Common Fisheries Policy for developing the role of women.

Parliament noted that more than 100 000 women worked in the fisheries sector in Member States, 4 % of them in the extractive sector and with jobs linked to the activities of fishing boats, as net-makers, port workers or packers, 30 % in aquaculture, chiefly shellfish gathering on foot, and around 60 % in the processing industry. However, the statistics grossly underestimated the reality of female work in some of these sectors, and the widespread economic crisis in some Member States had led to a growing number of women engaging in activities in the fishing sector, particularly land-based shellfish gathering, as a means of complementing or even ensuring their family income.

The resolution urged the Commission to launch a specific statistical programme for regions that depended on fishing, paying particular attention to artisanal and coastal fishing, traditional fishing methods and specific marketing channels, and to the work and social and labour conditions of women shellfish gatherers, net-makers and artisanal workers, with the aim of assessing the specific needs associated with womens activity and enhancing the social recognition given to these extremely arduous occupations. The collection of gender-disaggregated data should also covers the catch sector and new indicators should be introduced, such as age, education and training levels, and activity of spouse or partner.

Parliament called for:

- legal and social recognition to the role played by women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and in the sustainable development of areas that depended on fishing, with the aim of removing all economic, administrative and social barriers that stand in the way of their participation on equal terms;
- regulation and recognition as occupational diseases injuries to joints, back injuries and rheumatic diseases caused by the harsh weather conditions in which women shellfish gatherers, net-makers, processing workers, fishers and sellers have to work, as well as injuries caused by lifting excessive weights;
- the creation (under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and/or other instruments) of specific support mechanisms that can be activated in emergencies (natural disasters), as well as of financial compensation mechanisms to assist fishermen, fisherwomen and their families during temporary fishing bans, especially in areas where fishing is the sole source of earnings;
- the recognition that the work carried out by women helps to improve the traceability of fishery products ;
- financial support for the establishment of womens associations through national and European womens networks, in order to facilitate the exchange of experience, and communicate womens needs and demands, from local government level up to European bodies;
- access to funding for womens organisations in fisheries, aquaculture and related sectors.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2013-2020: Parliament noted that only one Member State had made use of the opportunities offered by axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund to finance projects whose beneficiaries were women. It urged Member States to seize the opportunities offered by the EMFF in order to, inter alia:

- apply the principle of equal opportunities to operational programmes;
- make the fisheries sector more women-friendly by redesigning the sector and providing suitable facilities (such as changing-rooms on vessels and in ports);
- offer women and girls easier access to training by financing specific training and vocational education and professional recognition of their activity;
- promote business initiatives launched by women, including the economic diversification of certain activities related to the fisheries sector, among them activities such as museology, cultural traditions, crafts, gastronomy and the restaurant industry;
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Basic regulation on the common fisheries policy: Member States were urged to:

- ensure compliance with the objectives of the new common fisheries policy in relation to access to fishery resources based on transparent environmental, social and economic criteria, incorporating the principles of equal treatment and equal opportunities;
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- ensure compliance with Directive 2010/41/EU, so that women working full- or part-time in family businesses, as well as women who make their livelihood from such activity without belonging to a family unit, are given legal recognition and social benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by people with self-employed status.