



Romanian Parliament  
Senate

Bucharest, September 26, 2018

Courtesy translation

**OPINION  
of the Senate**

regarding

**the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

**COM(2018)390 final**

**The Romanian Senate** examined the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council - COM(2018) 390 final -according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 2).

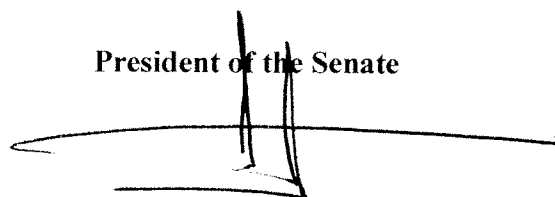
Taking into account the report of September 21, 2018 of the permanent Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of September 26, 2018, ascertains as follows:

- A. Considers that the present Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council respects the principle of subsidiarity.
- B. Considers that the present Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council does not respect the principle of proportionality, as Romania is disadvantaged for the following reasons:
  1. the development of small-scale coastal fishing is unsustainable in the Black Sea area, affecting the sustainable exploitation of the Black Sea;
  2. due to insufficient fishing capacity and specific location of the fish stock over the 12 m isobath, the development of the sector and the access to the resource can not be ensured; although the principle of equal access to the same fishery resource (in the Black Sea) is included in this proposal, its implementation does not favor Romania;
  3. Romania has a fishing capacity 10 times lower than that of Bulgaria, due to administrative inadvertencies of previous periods (2009-2010) and due to Romania's disproportionate and unfavorable allocation of fishing quotas to the Black Sea in relation to Bulgaria, ie 70% Bulgaria and 30% Romania;

4. Romania cannot benefit fully and under equal access conditions from the provisions of the proposed regulation and the current regulation in force because of lack of access to the resource due to technical reasons, ie lack of fishing capacity.
- C. By taking into account the considerations of point B, subpoint 1-4, Romania's interest resides in the re-negotiations of its fishing capacity prior to the application of the hereof regulation.
- D. Notes that the legal basis of the proposal is based on Article 42, Article 43 (2), Article 91 (1), Article 100 (2), Article 173 (3), Article 175, Article 188, Article 192 paragraph 1, Article 194 (2), Article 195 (2) and Article 349 TFEU.
- E. Certifies the validity of the chosen legal form, that of the regulation.
- F. Appreciates the Commission's efforts to develop the proposal for a regulation on the financing of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2017-2021, which is the premise of a successful implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, provided that equal opportunities and equity are allocated to all Member States.
- G. Considers that:
1. the proposal for a regulation on the FEPAM is broadly in line with the Member States, including Romania, for continuity, flexibility and simplification;
  2. flexibility and continuity suffer a regression in the form of support, investment in aquaculture and processing, which can only benefit from financial instruments, not from grants, as it has been done so far.
  3. this change could have an adverse effect on the desired development of aquaculture and processing in some Member States, leading to the delay in providing support and inadequate financial instruments for all types of investment in aquaculture and processing. Considering its importance as a potential supplier of quality food and an alternative to commercial fishing, thus reducing pressure on fish stocks from seas and oceans, aquaculture should receive even more consistent support so that the co-financing rate be increased compared to the proposed level within the proposed FEPAM Regulation (eg in "investments in aquaculture", the intensity of support to be increased from 50% to at least 70% for grants).
- H. Recommends the following:
1. Reconsideration of the proposal in line with the needs of the fishing and aquaculture sector, the strategic context of the Black Sea basin, the implementation obligations of the CFP, the importance of inland fishing - the Danube River (whose largest part lies in Romania) and the Danube Delta and storage lakes with great aquaculture potential, considering the financial allocation proposal for Romania;
  2. Adaptation of some elements to the specific needs of Member States. It is very important, beneficial and necessary to improve the proposal, in particular as regards the increase in the financial allocation for Romania, the intensity of public support to investment projects for fisheries and aquaculture and the correction of equitable, proportionate and fair allocation of capacity fishing and fishing quotas on the Black Sea;
  3. Increasing co-financing rates for certain actions that add value to the fisheries and aquaculture sector, such as:
    - a. introducing stimulation of young fishermen / aquaculture;
    - b. supporting innovative actions at local level;
    - c. supporting the activity and setting up of intensive aquaculture farms;
    - d. production of quality, non-polluting and high-yield feed;
    - e. partial or total switch to green energy for the supply of equipment used in aquaculture;
    - f. implementation of environmental standards;
    - g. social actions in the framework of local development strategies;

- h. investments for the viability of aquaculture and mariculture sites (eg development of infrastructure for access to aquaculture sites, unclogging, protection of mariculture sites, provision of aquaculture / mariculture sites utilities, etc.);
  - i. diversification of incomes from aquaculture and fisheries;
  - j. protecting biodiversity;
  - k. compensatory payments for temporary cessation of fishing - periods of prohibition in inland and marine waters by species;
4. Offering grants with a 100% co-financing intensity targeting complex investments to protect species important for the European biodiversity of high economic value and subject to intensive fishing.

**President of the Senate**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a vertical stroke and a loop, positioned over the printed name.

**p. Adrian ȚUTUIANU**