

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMMITTEE

INTERIM RESOLUTION

on

ACP/EEC COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES
IN THE ACP STATES

(Adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee on 24 February 1983)

Rapporteurs: H.E. Mr Ahmed Killy ould Cheikh SIDIYA (Mauritania),
and
H.E. Mr Mohammed MALINGUR (Somalia)

8 March 1983

CA/CP/350/fin.

The Joint Committee of the ACP/EEC Consultative Assembly,

- meeting in Kingston, (Jamaica) from 21 to 24 February 1983
 - having regard to the rapporteurs' conclusions of the discussions on ACP/EEC cooperation for the development of fisheries in the ACP States (CA/CP/317/rev.)
1. Is seriously concerned
 - that no definite chapter has been assigned to the proper development of ACP fisheries in the text of the Lomé Convention apart from Annexes XVIII and XXI which unfortunately do not provide a satisfactory framework for drawing up workable agreements,
 - that one of the major obstacles to the development of the ACP fisheries is the restrictive rules of origin;
 2. Is conscious that an accelerated development of fisheries will contribute substantially to the solution to the problem of the world's food supply especially of protein;
 3. Notes with satisfaction that the United Nations World Conference on the Law of the Sea has finally recognised the concept of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to extend to 200 nautical miles;
 4. Praises the activities of the Community and its Member States which have contributed to the development of ACP marine fisheries through bilateral arrangements;
 5. Regrets that bilateral cooperation has so far placed little emphasis on inland and artisanal fisheries and fish farming which can be of great importance to the nutrition of the local population;
 6. Is aware of the fact that available statistics of fisheries potential in the ACP waters is incomplete and that together the ACP and the EEC could undertake stock evaluation for more meaningful planning of the development of fisheries;

7. Acknowledges FAO figures showing that at least 25 of the world's most valuable fishing grounds are seriously depleted, which means that the potential catch has dwindled by approximately one quarter;
8. Calls for a review of the legal framework so as to facilitate the drawing up of joint ventures between ACP States and EEC Member States;
9. Urges the Community to
 - Continue the examination of the ACP document on the rules of origin already begun, with a view to greater liberalisation, and to make proposals prior to the opening of negotiations for the Successor Convention on 1 September 1983,
 - Change the existing rules of origin in order to recognise the ACP's sovereign rights over all fish and fishery resources in the waters within their national jurisdiction and to allow all catches within the internationally acknowledged 200-mile exclusive economic zone which are landed in ACP States for processing and export to the EEC markets to enjoy originating status;
 - promote investment in both marine and inland fisheries development with due regard to economic as well as social benefits,
 - encourage the transfer of appropriate technology necessary for the exploitation of the fisheries potential of both marine and inland waters,
 - provide vocational training assistance so as to enable ACP States to man their vessels and fisheries industries with the appropriate staff;
10. Calls upon ACP States to promote utilisation of fish and fish products through educational campaigns with a view to provide more balanced diets especially where the lack of protein is felt;

11. Emphasises the importance of healthy sea and river systems maintaining a natural reciprocal balance;
12. Voices its preference for an ecologically responsible multi-species approach to fisheries policy, based on a responsible catch and averting over-fishing;
13. Recognises the vital importance of protecting fish stocks and controlling fishing in the waters of ACP States, and accordingly feels strongly that the European Community should provide assistance for fishery protection;
14. Requests the signatories of the Convention to take account of the points raised in this resolution in the negotiations for the successor arrangement to the present Convention.

