# EC/Seychelles Fisheries Agreement: protocol for the period from 18 January 2005 to 17 January 2011, amendments

2007/0232(CNS) - 31/10/2007 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters on the amendments to the Protocol setting out, for the period from **18 January 2005 to 17 January 2011**, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the EC and the Seychelles.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

CONTENT: following the meeting of the EC/Seychelles Joint Committee in January 2007, it was decided that the two Parties would organise a meeting of the Joint Committee in order to submit proposals for amendments to the existing Protocol (CNS/2005/0173). These were discussed at the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 20-21 March in Brussels.

The main objective of the amendments made to the Protocol is to:

- increase the reference tonnage from 55 000 tonnes to **63 000 tonnes** to take account of the average level of catches over the past three years;
- introduce the financial support for the partnership which was not introduced in the previous negotiations (prior to the Council Conclusions of July 2004 on Fisheries Partnership Agreements);
- increase the share paid by ship owners from EUR 25 to **EUR 35 per tonne** to bring the Protocol into line with other tuna agreements, hence reducing the Community contribution from EUR 75 to EUR 65 per tonne;
- fishing opportunities remain unchanged: 40 tuna seiners and 12 surface longliners;
- the annual financial contribution increases from EUR 4 125 000 in the current Protocol to **EUR 5 355 000 in the amended Protocol** and the estimated fee payable by ship owners from EUR 1 375 000 to **EUR 2 205 000**;
- advances and fees payable by ship owners: **EUR 35** (compared with EUR 25 previously) per tonne of tuna. The advances are fixed at EUR 21 000 per year per tuna seiner, EUR 4 200 per year per surface longliner over 250 GT and EUR 3 150 per year per surface longliner of 250 GT or less.

The fishing opportunities set out in the Protocol and laid down in Regulation (EC) No 115/2006 will not be amended. To recall, these are:

**Tuna seiners**:

- Spain: 22 vessels
- France: 17 vessels
- Italy: 1 vessel

**Surface longliners**:

- Spain: 2 vessels
- France: 5 vessels
- Portugal: 5 vessels

This amended Protocol is to be applied provisionally from 18 January 2008 pending its entry into force in accordance with Article 13.

A proposal for a Council Decision on the provisional application of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters on the amendments to the Protocol is the subject of a separate procedure.