

EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 18 November 2012 to 15 December 2014. Protocol

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PURPOSE: the conclusion of the Protocol between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two Parties currently in force.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision

BACKGROUND: on the basis of powers conferred on it by the Council, the European Commission has conducted negotiations with Mauritania with a view to renewing the Protocol to the [Fisheries Partnership Agreement](#) between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

At the end of those negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 26 July 2012 which now needs to be concluded on behalf of the European Union..

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the interested parties were consulted ahead of the negotiations in the framework of the Regional Advisory Council for the Long Distance Fleet Operating in non-Community Waters, bringing together the fisheries sector and environmental and development NGOs. Experts from the Member States were also consulted in technical meetings. These consultations concluded that it would be beneficial to maintain a fishing protocol with Mauritania.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 43(2), in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: this proposed decision relates to the conclusion of a fishing protocol between the European Union and Mauritania setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and that country.

Objective: the main aim of the Protocol to the Agreement is to provide fishing opportunities for vessels of the European Union in the waters of Mauritania **within the limits of the available surplus**. The Commission has, among other things, taken account of the opinion of the Scientific Committee set up under the Agreement. The general aim is to strengthen the cooperation between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania with a view to establishing a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in Mauritanian fishing zones, in the interests of both Parties.

Fishing protocol: the draft protocol provides for **annual fishing opportunities** in the following categories and quantities:

- 5 000 tonnes for fishing vessels specialising in crustaceans other than spiny lobster and crab;
- 4 000 tonnes for black hake (non-freezer) trawlers and bottom longliners;
- 2 500 tonnes for vessels fishing for demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls;
- 200 tonnes of crab;

- 22 tuna seiners;
- 22 pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners;
- 300 000 tonnes for pelagic freezer trawlers;
- 15 000 tonnes for non-freezer pelagic vessels (to be deducted from the allocation set for pelagic freezer trawlers).

Financial contribution: the financial contribution is set at **EUR 70 million** over the entire period of the protocol.

- a financial contribution of **EUR 67 million** for access to the fisheries resources, and
- **EUR 3 million** in development aid for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's sectoral fisheries policy. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy.

This financial contribution was calculated on the basis of reference tonnages outlined above. The Parties may adopt in the Joint Committee provided for in the Agreement, a revision to the fishing opportunities. In this case the financial contribution shall be adjusted proportionately and *pro rata temporis*.

Duration of the fishing protocol: the protocol is concluded for **2 years** from the date of its signature unless it is terminated.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the total financial allocation for the fishing protocol will be **EUR 140 million for 2012-2013** (operational payments). To this, should be added the administrative costs of the management of the protocol and human resources costs in the order of **EUR 616 000** for the period of duration of the protocol.