EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020. Protocol

2015/0152(NLE) - 16/07/2015 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: the conclusion of a protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: on the basis of a mandate granted to it by the Council, the European Commission on behalf of the Union negotiated with the Government of Denmark and Government of Greenland in view of renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and these two territorial entities.

Following these negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 20 March 2015.

The new Protocol is in line with the objectives of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement, strengthens the cooperation between the Union and Greenland and promotes a partnership framework in which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the Greenlandic fishing zone in the interest of both Parties.

CONTENT: with this proposal for a Decision, the Commission proposes the conclusion of a protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other.

Period of application: the Fishing Protocol would cover a period of five years from the date of provisional application – i.e. from the date of its signature and from 1 January 2016 at the earliest.

Fishing opportunities: the Protocol grants fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing zone of Greenland, in line with relevant conservation and management measures and within the limits of the available surplus.

To this effect, the protocol sets an indicative annual level of fishing opportunities granted by Greenland (in tonnes) to Union vessels by species:

- cod;
- pelagic redfish;
- demersal redfish;
- halibut;
- northern prawn;

- capelin;
- grenadier;
- by-catch (catches of all marine living organisms where these are not mentioned as target species on the fishing authorization of the vessel or do not meet the minimum size requirements; these are limited to a rate of 5% in the Northern prawn fisheries and 10% in other fisheries.

Following results to be assessed by the ICES Advisory Committee on the ongoing investigations and surveys at sea carried out on the different components of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Greenland waters and more particularly on spawners located West Greenland inshore, West Greenland offshore and East Greenland offshore, the Joint Committee may revise or adjust the indicative fishing opportunities for cod.

Financial contribution: the Protocol provides for a total annual financial contribution of **EUR 17.799.978** per year for its duration.

This amount corresponds to:

- EUR 13.168.978 per year for the access to the Greenlandic fishing zone,
- EUR 2.931.000 per year, corresponding to the additional envelope paid by the EU in support of Greenland's fisheries policy and
- EUR 1.700.000 as an annual reserve for additional and new fishing opportunities that may be accepted by the EU subject to scientific advice and surplus resources.

The two Parties have agreed to cooperate to implement Greenlandic sectorial fisheries policy and to that end shall continue the policy dialogue on the relevant programming.

Specific provisions: provision is made for the setting of principles for responsible fisheries management. Provision is also made for an experimental fisheries programme for species not included in the protocol, as well as scientific cooperation on sustainable fishery exploitation.