

# EU/São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2019-2024. Protocol

2019/0173(NLE) - 30/08/2019 - Document attached to the procedure

**PURPOSE:** signature, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community

**PROPOSED ACT:** Council Decision.

**BACKGROUND:** the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community entered into force on 29 August 2011 and has since been renewed automatically. The previous Protocol to the Agreement, which entered into force on 23 May 2014, expired on 22 May 2018.

On 18 December 2017, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe with a view to concluding a new Protocol on the implementation of the Agreement. These negotiations were successfully concluded and the Protocol was initialled on 17 April 2019.

This new Protocol takes into account the results of an evaluation of the previous Protocol (2014-2018) and of a forward-looking assessment of whether a new Protocol should be concluded.

The evaluation report concluded that the EU's tuna fishing sector has a strong interest in fishing in São Tomé and Príncipe and that a renewal of the Protocol would help strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance and contribute to improved governance of the fisheries in the region.

**CONTENT:** the Commission proposes that the Council decide to authorise, on behalf of the Union, the signing of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community.

The objective of the Protocol is to enable the European Union and São Tomé and Príncipe to work more closely on promoting a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in São Tomé and Príncipe waters and to support efforts by São Tomé and Príncipe to develop its fisheries sector.

The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories: (a) 28 freezer tuna seiners; (b) 6 surface longliners.

The annual financial contribution from the European Union is EUR 840 000, based on:

- a reference tonnage of 8 000 tonnes per year, for which an amount linked to access has been set at EUR 400 000 per year for the entire duration of the Protocol;

- support for the development of São Tomé and Príncipe's sectoral fisheries policy amounting to EUR 440 000 per year for the entire duration of the Protocol. This support meets the objectives of São Tomé and Príncipe's national policy on the sustainable management of its continental and maritime fishery resources for the entire duration of the Protocol. The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is established during the annual budgetary procedure.

The Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of its provisional application, i.e. from the date of its signature.