EU/Senegal Fisheries Partnership Agreement: implementation of the Agreement. Protocol

2019/0226(NLE) - 17/10/2019

PURPOSE: to conclude the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Senegal and the European Union.

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: the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between Senegal and the European Union entered into force on 20 November 2014 and has since been tacitly renewed. The current protocol in force will expire on 19 November 2019.

The evaluation of the current Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Senegal and an ex ante evaluation of a possible renewal of the Protocol concluded the EU tuna fishing and trawling sector has a strong interest in fishing in Senegal and that a renewal of the Protocol would help strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance and contribute to improved fisheries governance in the region.

The Commission conducted negotiations with the Government of Senegal with a view to concluding a new Protocol to the Agreement. Following these negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 19 July 2019. The Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of its provisional application, i.e. from the date on which it was signed.

The negotiation of a new Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Senegal forms part of the EU's external action in relation to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and takes into account, in particular, Union objectives on respecting democratic principles and human rights.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council decide to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Senegal and the European Union (2019-2024).

Objective

The objective of the Protocol is to enable the European Union and Senegal to work more closely on promoting a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in Senegalese waters and to support Senegal's efforts to develop its fisheries sector.

The Protocol will also contribute to better management and conservation of fishery resources, through financial support (sectoral support) for the implementation of programmes adopted at national level by the partner country, in particular as regards monitoring and combating illegal fishing, and support for the small-scale fisheries sector. Lastly, the Protocol will contribute to Senegal's fishing economy by promoting growth associated with fishing-related economic activities.

Fishing opportunities

In accordance with the priorities of the fisheries policy reform4, the new Protocol provides fishing opportunities for EU vessels in Senegalese waters, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and following the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories:

- 28 freezer tuna seiners,

- 10 pole-and-line vessels,

- 5 longliners,

- 2 trawlers.

Budgetary implications

The annual financial contribution from the European Union is EUR 1 700 000, based on:

- an access-related amount set at EUR 800 000, specifically for a reference tonnage of 10 000 tonnes of tuna per year and for an authorised catch volume of black hake of 1 750 tonnes per year;

- support for the development of Senegal's sectoral fisheries policy for an amount of EUR 900 000 per year for the entire duration of the Protocol. This support meets the objectives of Senegal's national policy on the sustainable management of its 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 Commission should be empowered, subject to specific substantive and procedural conditions, to approve them on behalf of the Union under a simplified procedure.