EU/Greenland/Denmark Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol

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PURPOSE: to conclude a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union, Greenland and Denmark and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

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 Commission negotiated on behalf of the EU a new sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union on the one hand, and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, on the other hand as well as a new implementation protocol to the partnership agreement. The agreement and the protocol were initialled at the end of those negotiations on 11 January 2021.

The agreement repeals the previous agreement that entered into force on 28 June 2007. The agreement and protocol have been applied on a provisional basis from the date of their signature.

These should now be approved on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council authorise the signing and provisional application of the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and the implementation protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution.

The new agreement covers a period of six years (2021-2026) from the date of its provisional application, renewable by tacit agreement. It pursues the priorities of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension, with a view of continuing and reinforcing the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Governments of Greenland and Denmark in the field of fisheries.

Fishing opportunities

The species covered by the new protocol are Cod, Pelagic Redfish, Demersal Redfish, Greenland Halibut, Northern Prawn, Grenadier, Capelin and Mackerel. The new protocol provides fishing opportunities for 12 vessels. Six EU Member States have a direct fishing interest in the new Protocol, namely Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Sweden and, to a lesser degree, Spain and Portugal.

Joint committee

The new agreement establishes the Joint Committee responsible for monitoring its implementation. The Joint Committee may approve certain amendments to the protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such amendments, the Commission should be empowered, subject to specific conditions, to approve them under a simplified procedure.

Budgetary implications

The annual financial contribution from the EU is EUR 16 521 754, based on:

a) an annual amount for access to fishery resources for the categories provided for in the Protocol, set at EUR 13 590 754 for the duration of the protocol;

b) support for the development of Greenland’s sectoral fisheries policy amounting to EUR 2 931 000 for the duration of the protocol.

The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is established during the annual budgetary procedure, including for the reserve line for protocols not yet having entered into force at the beginning of the year.