Basic information

2012/0134(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 24 November 2014 to 23 November 2017. Protocol See also 2007/0209(CNS) See also 2015/2119(INI) **Subject** 3.15.15.02 Fisheries agreements with African countries **Geographical area** Guinea-Bissau	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	FERREIRA João (GUE/NGL)	03/02/2015
	Shadow rapporteur MATO Gabriel (PPE) AGUILERA Clara (S&D) BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun (ALDE)	

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries		

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	DEVA Nirj (ECR)	24/04/2015
BUDG Budgets	TARAND Indrek (Verts/ALE)	14/01/2015

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed

	DEVE Development		
	BUDG Budgets		

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	3412	2015-10-05

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	VELLA Karmenu

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/06/2012	Preparatory document	COM(2012)0260	Summary
06/10/2014	Legislative proposal published	11667/2012	Summary
15/12/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/07/2015	Vote in committee		
20/07/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0233/2015	Summary
08/09/2015	Debate in Parliament		
09/09/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0298/2015	Summary
09/09/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/10/2015	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
05/10/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/11/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2012/0134(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	See also 2007/0209(CNS) See also 2015/2119(INI)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/8/00131

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE557.215	27/05/2015	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE546.724	24/06/2015	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE557.075	25/06/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0233/2015	20/07/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0298/2015	09/09/2015	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	11667/2012	06/10/2014	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	11671/2012	06/10/2014	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2012)0260	05/06/2012	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2017)0018	18/01/2017	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2017)0019	18/01/2017	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2015/1987
OJ L 290 06.11.2015, p. 0001 Summary

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 24 November 2014 to 23 November 2017. Protocol

2012/0134(NLE) - 06/10/2014 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Protocol agreed between the European Union and Guinea-Bissau 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.

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

BACKGROUND: the Union and Guinea-Bissau have negotiated a new Protocol granting Union vessels fishing opportunities in waters in which Guinea-Bissau exercises sovereignty or jurisdiction with regard to fishing.

The Protocol was signed in accordance with a Decision and has been applied provisionally from the date of its signature.

The Protocol should now be approved on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: under this proposal, the Council is invited to adopt a decision aiming to approve, on behalf of the European Union, the Protocol setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Guinea-Bissau.

The Protocol seeks to provide fishing opportunities for the vessels of the European Union in the waters of Guinea-Bissau as well as the financial contribution provided by the Agreement.

For the main details of the Protocol as regards the **financial contribution** (agreed by the European Union in exchange of fishing licences), the **fishing possibilities** and the financial envelope of the Protocol, please refer to the summary of the initial legislative proposal dated 5 June 2012.

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 24 November 2014 to 23 November 2017. Protocol

2012/0134(NLE) - 05/06/2012 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude the Protocol agreed between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau 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 a mandate from the Council1, the European Commission has conducted negotiations with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau with a view to renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (for details on the content of this Protocol, please refer to NLE/2011/0257).

At the end of those negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 10 February 2012.

It is now necessary to conclude the protocol on behalf of the EU.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the interested parties were consulted ahead of the negotiations in the framework of the Long Distance Fleet Regional Advisory Council, 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 Guinea-Bissau.

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 draft Council Decision aims to conclude the Protocol agreed between the EU/Guinea-Bissau setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two parties currently in force.

The main aim of the Protocol to the Agreement is to:

- provide fishing opportunities for the vessels of the European Union in the waters of Guinea-Bissau within the limits of the available surplus;
- enhance the cooperation between the EU-Guinea-Bissau, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone, in the interests of both Parties.

The main provisions of the Agreement can be summarized as follows:

Financial contribution: the overall financial contribution of the Protocol of EUR 9.2 million over the whole period is based on:

- a maximum of 40 authorisations for tuna vessels and of 7 200 GRT for trawlers, for a financial contribution of EUR 6.2 million;
- support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau amounting to EUR 3 million. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy.

Fishing opportunities: for a period of three years, the fishing opportunities shall be as follows:

- freezer shrimp trawlers: 3 700 GRT per year;
- freezer, fin-fish and cephalopod trawlers: 3 500 GRT per year;
- freezer tuna seiners and longliners: 28 vessels;
- pole-and-line tuna vessels: 12 vessels.

Suspension of the implementation of the Protocol: the implementation of this Protocol may be suspended at the initiative of one of the two Parties after consultation within the Joint Committee, if one or more of the following conditions apply: (a) unusual circumstances, other than natural phenomena, prevent fishing activities in the Guinea-Bissau EEZ; (b) following significant changes in the policy objectives which led to the conclusion of this Protocol; (c) one of the two Parties violates one of the essential and fundamental elements of human rights and democratic principles, etc. In the event of suspension, the Parties shall continue to consult with a view to finding an amicable settlement to their dispute. Specific financial measures shall be provided in this case.

Duration: the Protocol and the Annex hereto shall apply for a period of three years from the provisional application.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the overall financial contribution of the Protocol shall be EUR 27.972 million from 2012 to 2015 (administrative expenses included).

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 24 November 2014 to 23 November 2017. Protocol

2012/0134(NLE) - 09/09/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 468 votes to 104, with 96 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Guinea-Bissau.

Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the protocol.

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 24 November 2014 to 23 November 2017. Protocol

2012/0134(NLE) - 05/10/2015 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude the Protocol agreed between the European Union and Guinea-Bissau setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two parties currently in force.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2015/1987 on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

BACKGROUND: the Union and Guinea-Bissau have negotiated a new Protocol granting Union vessels fishing opportunities in waters in which Guinea-Bissau exercises sovereignty or jurisdiction with regard to fishing.

The Protocol was signed on 24 November 2014 and has been applied provisionally from the date of its signature.

It is now necessary to conclude the Protocol on behalf of the Union.

CONTENT: under this Decision, the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau is hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

The main aims of the Protocol to the Agreement are to:

- provide fishing opportunities for the vessels of the European Union in the waters of Guinea-Bissau within the limits of the available surplus;
- enhance the cooperation between the EU-Guinea-Bissau, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone, in the interests of both Parties.

The Protocol lays down, in particular, the duration of the application, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided by the Agreement.

The main provisions of the Agreement can be summarised as follows:

Financial contribution: the overall financial contribution of the Protocol of EUR 9.2 million over the whole period is based on:

- a maximum of 40 authorisations for tuna vessels and of 7 200 GRT for trawlers, for a financial contribution of EUR 6.2 million;
- support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau amounting to EUR 3 million. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy.

Fishing opportunities: for a period of three years, the fishing opportunities shall be as follows:

- freezer shrimp trawlers: 3 700 GRT per year;
- freezer, fin-fish and cephalopod trawlers: 3 500 GRT per year;
- freezer tuna seiners and longliners: 28 vessels;
- pole-and-line tuna vessels: 12 vessels.

Suspension of the implementation of the Protocol: the implementation of this Protocol may be suspended at the initiative of one of the two Parties after consultation within the Joint Committee under unusual circumstances, other than natural phenomena (notably following significant changes in the policy objectives which led to the conclusion of this Protocol, such as serious violation of human rights).

Duration: the Protocol and the Annex hereto shall apply for a period of three years from the provisional application.

Joint committee: the Agreement set up a Joint Committee which is responsible for monitoring the application of the Agreement. Furthermore, in accordance with the Protocol, the Joint Committee may approve certain modifications to the Protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such modifications, it is appropriate to empower the Commission, subject to specific conditions, to approve them under a **simplified procedure**.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: this Decision shall enter into force on 5.10.2015. The date of entry into force of the Protocol will be published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union by the General Secretariat of the Council.

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 24 November 2014 to 23 November 2017. Protocol

2012/0134(NLE) - 20/07/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted a recommendation by João FERREIRA (GUE/NGL, PT) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Members called on the European Parliament to give its consent to the conclusion of the Protocol.

They welcomed the Protocol given its importance for both Guinea-Bissau and for EU fleets operating in that country's waters.

Nevertheless, Members considered it necessary to carry out a more detailed assessment of this agreement, its background and its prospects for the future.

There is a need to improve the quality and accuracy of data on all catches and on the conservation status of fishery resources in general, along with support for Guinea-Bissau to develop its own capacities for obtaining this data.

Members stressed that Parliament must be kept immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedures related to the protocol or its renewal.

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 24 November 2014 to 23 November 2017. Protocol

2012/0134(NLE) - 05/06/2012

PURPOSE: to conclude the Protocol agreed between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau 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 a mandate from the Council1, the European Commission has conducted negotiations with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau with a view to renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (for details on the content of this Protocol, please refer to NLE/2011/0257).

At the end of those negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 10 February 2012.

It is now necessary to conclude the protocol on behalf of the EU.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the interested parties were consulted ahead of the negotiations in the framework of the Long Distance Fleet Regional Advisory Council, 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 Guinea-Bissau.

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 draft Council Decision aims to conclude the Protocol agreed between the EU/Guinea-Bissau setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two parties currently in force.

The main aim of the Protocol to the Agreement is to:

- provide fishing opportunities for the vessels of the European Union in the waters of Guinea-Bissau within the limits of the available surplus;
- enhance the cooperation between the EU-Guinea-Bissau, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone, in the interests of both Parties.

The main provisions of the Agreement can be summarized as follows:

Financial contribution: the overall financial contribution of the Protocol of EUR 9.2 million over the whole period is based on:

- a maximum of 40 authorisations for tuna vessels and of 7 200 GRT for trawlers, for a financial contribution of EUR 6.2 million;
- support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau amounting to EUR 3 million. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy.

Fishing opportunities: for a period of three years, the fishing opportunities shall be as follows:

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- freezer, fin-fish and cephalopod trawlers: 3 500 GRT per year;
- freezer tuna seiners and longliners: 28 vessels;
- pole-and-line tuna vessels: 12 vessels.

Suspension of the implementation of the Protocol: the implementation of this Protocol may be suspended at the initiative of one of the two Parties after consultation within the Joint Committee, if one or more of the following conditions apply: (a) unusual circumstances, other than natural phenomena, prevent fishing activities in the Guinea-Bissau EEZ; (b) following significant changes in the policy objectives which led to the conclusion of this Protocol; (c) one of the two Parties violates one of the essential and fundamental elements of human rights and democratic principles, etc. In the event of suspension, the Parties shall continue to consult with a view to finding an amicable settlement to their dispute. Specific financial measures shall be provided in this case.

Duration: the Protocol and the Annex hereto shall apply for a period of three years from the provisional application.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the overall financial contribution of the Protocol shall be EUR 27.972 million from 2012 to 2012 (administrative expenses included).