Basic information

2015/0224(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol from 9 December 2015 to 8 December 2020 **Subject** 3.15.15.02 Fisheries agreements with African countries **Geographical area** Liberia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	WAŁĘSA Jarosław (PPE)	28/10/2015
	Shadow rapporteur SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo (S&D) NICOLAI Norica (ALDE) FERREIRA João (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	HEUBUCH Maria (Verts/ALE)	19/11/2015
BUDG Budgets	MUREŞAN Siegfried (PPE)	03/12/2015

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	VELLA Karmenu

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

30/09/2015	Preparatory document	COM(2015)0467	Summary
10/11/2015	Legislative proposal published	13015/2015	Summary
17/12/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/04/2016	Vote in committee		
21/04/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0142/2016	Summary
09/05/2016	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0208/2016	Summary
10/05/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/05/2016	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
24/05/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/07/2016	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/0224(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p7 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/8/04610

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE575.289	23/02/2016	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE571.799	17/03/2016	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE573.187	17/03/2016	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0142/2016	21/04/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0208/2016	10/05/2016	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	13014/2015	10/11/2015	

Legislative proposal	13015/2015	10/11/2015	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2015)0465	30/09/2015	
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2015)0466	30/09/2015	
Preparatory document	COM(2015)0467	30/09/2015	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2016/1062
OJ L 177 01.07.2016, p. 0001 Summary

EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol from 9 December 2015 to 8 December 2020

2015/0224(NLE) - 24/05/2016 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution between the Union and Liberia.

NON LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2016/1062 on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

CONTENT: with this Decision, the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto are hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

Objectives: the new Agreement provides for a framework taking into account the priorities of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension, with a view to establishing a strategic partnership between the European Union and Liberia.

The main objective of the new Protocol is to provide fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the Liberian fishing zone, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and respecting the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), where applicable within the limits of the available surplus.

The aim is also to enhance cooperation between the European Union and Liberia to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in Liberia's fishing zone, in the interests of both parties.

Fishing opportunities: the Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories:

- 28 tuna seiners;
- 6 surface long-liners.

The allocation of fishing opportunities will be set out between the EU Member States.

Financial contribution: the annual financial contribution has been set at:

- EUR 715 000 for the first year,
- EUR 650 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and
- EUR 585 000 for the fifth year, on the basis of:

(a) a reference tonnage of 6 500 tonnes, for which an amount linked to access has been set at EUR 357 500 for the first year, EUR 325 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and EUR 292 500 for the fifth year; and

(b) support for development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Liberia, amounting to EUR 357 500 for the first year, EUR 325 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and EUR 292 500 for the fifth year. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy and in particular Liberia's needs in relation to scientific research, artisanal fisheries as well as fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and the fight against illegal fishing.

Joint committee: the Agreement set up a Joint Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the performance, interpretation and application of the Agreement. Furthermore, the Joint Committee may approve certain modifications to the Protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such modifications, the Commission is empowered, subject to specific conditions, to approve them under a simplified procedure.

Duration of the agreement: the Protocol and the Agreement cover a period of five years from 9.12.2015.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision enters into force on 4.7.2016. The date of entry into force of the Agreement and of the Protocol will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union by the General Secretariat of the Council.

EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol from 9 December 2015 to 8 December 2020

2015/0224(NLE) - 10/11/2015 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement, together with the implementation Protocol, setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution between the Union and Liberia.

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 Liberia negotiated a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and an Implementation Protocol thereto, granting Union vessels fishing opportunities in the waters over which Liberia has sovereignty or jurisdiction in respect of fisheries.

The Agreement and the Protocol were signed in accordance with a Council Decision and apply on a provisional basis.

The Agreement and the Protocol should now be approved.

CONTENT: with this proposal, the Council is called upon to approve the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

Objective: the aim of the Agreement is to strengthen cooperation between the EU and Liberia in promoting the introduction of responsible fisheries to ensure the sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources in the Liberian fishing zone, in the interests of both parties.

Protocol: a Protocol sets out the fishing opportunities and EU financial contribution, with total amounts varying according to the year of implementation of the Protocol.

For more information on the fishing opportunities and financial contribution, *please see the summary of the initial legislative proposal of 30.9.2015.*

NB: *the allocation of fishing opportunities between the EU Member States is set out in the Protocol.*

Joint Committee: the Agreement establishes a Joint Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the performance, interpretation and application of the Agreement. Furthermore, the Joint Committee may approve certain modifications to the Protocol.

In order to facilitate the approval of such modifications, the Commission will be empowered, subject to specific conditions, to approve them under a simplified procedure.

The Commission will be authorised to negotiate with Liberia modifications to the Protocol in respect of the following issues:

- review of fishing opportunities, and, consequently, of the relevant financial contribution;
- the modalities of the sectoral support regarding fisheries;
- measures to ensure sustainable management of the fisheries resources;
- technical provisions of the Protocol.

In the Joint Committee the Union shall act in accordance with the objectives it pursued within the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy, and promote positions that are consistent with the relevant rules adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. The Joint Committee shall

ensure that the position to be expressed on behalf of the Union takes account of the latest statistical, biological and other relevant information transmitted to the Commission.

Technical provisions set out the framework and practical modalities for approving modifications to the Protocol.

To this effect and based on that information, a document setting out the particulars of the proposed Union position shall be transmitted by the Commission services, in sufficient time before the relevant Joint Committee Meeting, to the Council or to its preparatory bodies for consideration and approval.

Duration of the Agreement: the Protocol and Agreement cover a period of five years from the date of their provisional application, i.e. from the date of their signature.

EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol from 9 December 2015 to 8 December 2020

2015/0224(NLE) - 30/09/2015 - Preparatory document

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

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

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

BACKGROUND: on the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Government of Liberia with a view to concluding a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and an Implementation Protocol thereto between the European Union and Liberia. Following these negotiations, a new Agreement and Protocol were initialled on 5 June 2015.

It is now appropriate to conclude that Protocol on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: the draft decision calls on the Council to approve, on behalf of the European Union, the new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol.

Objectives: the new Agreement will provide for a framework taking into account the priorities of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension, with a view to establishing a strategic partnership between the European Union and Liberia.

The main objective of the new Protocol is to provide fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the Liberian fishing zone, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and respecting the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), where applicable within the limits of the available surplus.

The aim is also to enhance cooperation between the European Union and Liberia to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in Liberia’s fishing zone, in the interests of both parties.

Financial contribution: the annual financial contribution has been set at:

- EUR 715 000 for the first year,
- EUR 650 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and
- EUR 585 000 for the fifth year, on the basis of:

(a) a reference tonnage of 6 500 tonnes, for which an amount linked to access has been set at EUR 357 500 for the first year, EUR 325 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and EUR 292 500 for the fifth year; and

(b) support for development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Liberia, amounting to EUR 357 500 for the first year, EUR 325 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and EUR 292 500 for the fifth year. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy and in particular the Republic of Liberia’s needs in relation to scientific research, artisanal fisheries as well as fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and the fight against illegal fishing.

Fishing opportunities: the Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories:

- 28 tuna seiners;
- 6 surface long-liners.

The allocation of fishing opportunities will be set out between the EU Member States.

Duration of the agreement: the Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of provisional application– i.e. from the date of its signature.

EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol from 9 December 2015 to 8 December 2020

2015/0224(NLE) - 30/09/2015

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

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

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

BACKGROUND: on the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Government of Liberia with a view to concluding a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and an Implementation Protocol thereto between the European Union and Liberia. Following these negotiations, a new Agreement and Protocol were initialled on 5 June 2015.

It is now appropriate to conclude that Protocol on behalf of the European Union.

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The main objective of the new Protocol is to provide fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the Liberian fishing zone, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and respecting the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), where applicable within the limits of the available surplus.

The aim is also to enhance cooperation between the European Union and Liberia to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in Liberia's fishing zone, in the interests of both parties.

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- EUR 585 000 for the fifth year, on the basis of:

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  (b) support for development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Republic of Liberia, amounting to EUR 357 500 for the first year, EUR 325 000 for the second, third and fourth years, and EUR 292 500 for the fifth year. This support meets the objectives of the national fisheries policy and in particular the Republic of Liberia's needs in relation to scientific research, artisanal fisheries as well as fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and the fight against illegal fishing.

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- 6 surface long-liners.

The allocation of fishing opportunities will be set out between the EU Member States.

Duration of the agreement: the Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of provisional application– i.e. from the date of its signature.

EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol from 9 December 2015 to 8 December 2020

2015/0224(NLE) - 10/05/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 584 votes to 35, with 43 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

In line with the recommendation made by the Committee on Fisheries, Parliament **gave its consent** to the conclusion of the Agreement and its Protocol.

The aim of the Agreement is to strengthen cooperation between the EU and Liberia in promoting the introduction of responsible fisheries to ensure the sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources in the Liberian fishing zone, in the interests of both parties.

EU/Liberia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol from 9 December 2015 to 8 December 2020

2015/0224(NLE) - 21/04/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Jarosław WAŁĘSA (EPP, PL) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

The committee called on the European Parliament to **give its consent** to the conclusion of the Agreement and the Protocol thereto.

In a short justification accompanying the report, Members considered that the SPFA with Liberia and its implementation Protocol is coherent with the aims of the Common Fisheries Policy, of a sustainable management of Fisheries and aquaculture activities and that it is of **great mutual benefit to both parties**.

The agreement seeks to strengthen the cooperation between the Union and Liberia, and more generally with West Africa where important tuna fishing zones are located. It promotes a partnership framework in which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the Liberian fishing zone. It helps the European Union in its global fight against IUU fishing by supporting the improvement of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of the Liberian fisheries sector and Economic Exclusive Zone.

This is in the interest of both Parties, in line with relevant conservation and management measures and within the limits of the available surplus.

Lastly, in general the report regretted that the European Parliament has a limited role in the adoption of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership agreements through **only a consent procedure**. It considered that the European Parliament should be awarded a more active role and be immediately and **fully informed** at all stages of the procedures concerning the FPAs or its renewals in order to increase transparency and democratic accountability of the protocols.