Basic information

2020/0002(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol (2020-2026) Accompanying procedure 2020/0002M(NLE) **Subject** 3.15.15.03 Fisheries agreements with Indian Ocean countries **Geographical area** Seychelles	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	ROOSE Caroline (Greens /EFA)	04/02/2020
	Shadow rapporteur BELLAMY François-Xavier (EPP) CARVALHAIS Isabel (S&D) BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun (Renew) TOMAŠIĆ Ruža (ECR) BOMPARD Manuel (GUE /NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	TOBÉ Tomas (EPP)	17/02/2020
BUDG Budgets	CHRISTOFOROU Lefteris (EPP)	28/01/2020

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/01/2020	Preparatory document	COM(2020)0002	Summary
17/02/2020	Legislative proposal published	05243/2020	Summary
09/03/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/10/2020	Vote in committee		
08/10/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0185/2020	
11/11/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0296/2020	Summary
08/12/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
08/12/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/0002(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Amendments and repeals	Accompanying procedure 2020/0002M(NLE)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p7 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/02217

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE648.263	17/04/2020	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE646.988	06/05/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0185/2020	08/10/2020	
Specific opinion	DEVE	PE652.292	08/10/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0296/2020	11/11/2020	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Legislative proposal	05243/2020	17/02/2020	Summary
Council statement on its position	05246/2020	17/02/2020	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2020)0001	07/01/2020	
Preparatory document	COM(2020)0002	07/01/2020	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2020)0003	07/01/2020	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2020/2000
OJ L 413 08.12.2020, p. 0001

EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol (2020-2026)

2020/0002(NLE) - 07/01/2020 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and its implementing protocol (2020-2026) between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles.

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 current Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the European Union and Seychelles was signed on 28 February 2007 and entered into force on 2 November 2007 for a duration of six years. The agreement is tacitly renewable, and is therefore still in force.

The current 6-year Protocol to the FPA entered into application on 18th January 2014 and will expire on 17th January 2020. On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Seychelles with a view to concluding, on behalf of the European Union, a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2020-2026). At the end of the negotiations, an Agreement and Protocol were initialled by the negotiators on 22 October 2019. The new Agreement repeals and replaces the existing Agreement; it covers a period of six years as does the new Protocol.

The purpose of this proposal is to authorise the conclusion of the Agreement and its Implementing Protocol

CONTENT: the main aim of the new Agreement is to provide an updated framework taking into account the priorities of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension, with a view to continuing and reinforcing the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Seychelles in the field of fisheries.

The aim of the Implementing Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in the Seychelles fishing zone in accordance with the best available scientific advice and the resolutions and recommendations of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), within the limits of the available surplus. The aim is also to enhance cooperation between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in the Seychelles fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean, in the interest of both parties. In addition, this cooperation will also contribute to promote decent working conditions in fisheries activities.

Fishing opportunities

The new Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories:

- 40 tuna purse seine vessels;

- 8 surface longliners;

- support vessels in accordance with the relevant IOTC resolutions.

The conclusion of the Agreement and its Implementing Protocol enables to continue and reinforce the strategic fisheries partnership between the European Union and Seychelles. It will create fishing opportunities for Union vessels in the Seychelles fishing zone. It 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 the Fisheries Comprehensive Plan, the monitoring and combating illegal fishing, and the support for the small-scale fisheries sector.

Lastly, the Agreement and the Protocol will contribute to Seychelles' sustainable exploitation of its marine resources and to Seychelles' fishing economy by promoting growth and decent working conditions, associated with fishing-related economic activities.

Budgetary implications

The EU annual financial contribution is EUR 5 300 000, based on:

- an annual amount for access to the fisheries resources in the Seychelles fishing zone of EUR 2 500 000 equivalent to a reference tonnage, for highly migratory species, of 50 000 tonnes per year;

- support for development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Seychelles, amounting to EUR 2 800 000 per year. This support meets the objectives of Seychelles' Fisheries Comprehensive Plan. The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is established during the annual budgetary procedure, including for the reserve line for protocols not having entered into force at the beginning of the year.

EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol (2020-2026)

2020/0002(NLE) - 17/02/2020 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles and its implementing protocol (2020-2026).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: in accordance with a Council Decision, a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles and its implementing protocol were signed, subject to their conclusion at a later date.

The Partnership Agreement repeals the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Seychelles, which entered into force on 2 November 2007 for a duration of six years and has been tacitly renewed and is therefore still in force.

The most recent protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Seychelles was signed on 18 December 2013 and was provisionally applied from 18 January 2014. It expired on 17 January 2020.

The Partnership Agreement and the Protocol should be approved.

CONTENT: this draft Council Decision seeks to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Seychelles and the Protocol on the Implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Seychelles (2020-2026).

The main aim of the Partnership Agreement and the Protocol is to enable the Union and the Seychelles to work more closely together to further promote the development of a sustainable fisheries policy, and enable the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in the Seychelles fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean, while contributing to decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

The Partnership Agreement provides for the establishment of a Joint Committee to be responsible for monitoring the application of the Partnership Agreement and the Protocol. The Joint Committee can adopt certain modifications to the Protocol.

In order to facilitate the approval of such modifications, the Commission shall be authorised, subject to specific substantive and procedural conditions, to approve them on behalf of the Union under a simplified procedure.

The EU’s position on proposed modifications to the Protocol shall be established by the Council. The proposed modifications shall be approved unless a blocking minority of Member States objects to those modifications.

The Partnership Agreement and the Protocol shall enter into force as soon as possible in view of the economic importance related to Union fishing activities in the Seychelles fishing zone and the need to reduce the interruption of such activities as much as possible.

EU/Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol (2020-2026)

2020/0002(NLE) - 11/11/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 504 votes to 70, with 112 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 Seychelles and its implementing protocol (2020-2026).

Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the agreement and the protocol.

The European Union signed a new sustainable fisheries partnership agreement (SFPA) with the Republic of the Seychelles and an accompanying implementing protocol, both of which will be in force for a six-year period (2020-2026).

In line with the priorities of the Common Fisheries Policy from 2014 and the rules concerning the SFPAs, the new agreement and the accompanying protocol stressed the need to adhere to the principles of sustainability and to fish only the surplus which must be calculated on the basis of the best available scientific advice.

The agreement between the EU and Seychelles is a tuna agreement. It grants fishing rights to European vessels targeting mainly the different species of tuna present in Seychelles waters.

The new protocol provides fishing opportunities for 40 tuna purse seiners (stable compared to the previous protocol), 8 surface longliners (2 additional vessels compared to the previous protocol) and support vessels, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission).

The financial contribution from the EU amounts to EUR 5.3 million per year, comprising EUR 2.5 million for access to fisheries resources and EUR 2.8 million to support the development of Seychelles' sectoral fisheries policy.