Basic information

2021/0037M(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU/Greenland/Denmark Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Implementation Protocol Accompanying procedure 2021/0037(NLE) **Subject** 3.15.15.08 Fisheries agreements with Northern and Baltic countries 4.70.06 Outlying and outermost regions, overseas countries and territories **Geographical area** Denmark Greenland	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	KARLESKIND Pierre (Renew)	04/03/2021
	Shadow rapporteur HERBST Niclas (EPP) AGUILERA Clara (S&D) ROOSE Caroline (Greens /EFA) ILČIĆ Ladislav (ECR)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/05/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/07/2021	Vote in committee		
15/07/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0235/2021	Summary
05/10/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0400/2021	Summary
05/10/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/0037M(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Motion for a resolution under consent procedure
Amendments and repeals	Accompanying procedure 2021/0037(NLE)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 107-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/06054

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE692.838	24/05/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE695.040	24/06/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0235/2021	15/07/2021	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0400/2021	05/10/2021	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2021)791	26/01/2022	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

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

2021/0037M(NLE) - 05/10/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 603 votes to 16, with 72 abstentions, a non-legislative resolution on the Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of a 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 and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

In parallel, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution giving its consent to the conclusion of the agreement and protocol.

Previous agreement and protocol

Parliament stressed that both the Greenlandic and EU fisheries sectors benefit from the Partnership Agreement (SFPA) both from a socio-economic point of view in terms of direct and indirect employment and gross value added generated by the EU fleet's operations in Greenlandic waters. However, it expressed concern that the total allowable catches set by Greenland for several stocks in the previous protocol exceeded scientific advice. It also regretted the lack of scientific data and the capacity to analyse this data, which is necessary for the proper management of the stocks.

New agreement and protocol

Parliament took note of the complexity of the negotiations and of the circumstances in which they took place, as negotiations were being held in parallel on the agreement with the United Kingdom, creating uncertainty, and Greenland was facing some internal political challenges. It recalled that Greenland’s starting position in these negotiations was to slash quotas for EU vessels by 30 %.

Members pointed out that fishing opportunities for the EU fleet have been cut by an average of 5% compared to the previous protocol. They also noted that the duration of the agreement is four years and that it can be renewed for two more years, which may represent a lack of visibility for European vessels.

In addition, the EU’s financial compensation (EUR 16 521 754 per year) is higher than under the previous protocol, while the contribution to sectoral support remains the same and the reference prices for shipowners’ fishing authorisations have risen.

Members stressed that all catches, including by-catches and discards, must be recorded and reported by species in accordance with the applicable Greenlandic legislation. They welcomed the agreement’s sustainability objectives and the parties’ cooperation in efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Greenland as a strategic player in the North Atlantic and Arctic

Stressing that Brexit has destabilised the whole relationship of the North Atlantic countries, the resolution stressed that the resulting consequences for the North Sea and North East Atlantic fisheries should not be used to manipulate the distribution of quotas in the Northern Agreements. Members also stressed the importance of relations with Greenland in the context of an EU strategy on the Arctic and in the fight to prevent unregulated high seas fishing in the Central Arctic.

Recommendations and requests to the European Commission

The main recommendations to the Commission are as follows:

- ensure that the implementation of the agreement and the protocol thereto help to mitigate global warming and to permit adaptation to its growing effects, to preserve and restore biodiversity and to achieve the sustainability goals set in the European Green Deal, and is aligned with the objectives of the CFP;

- ensure the application of the precautionary approach to the currently exploited and targeted stocks such as cod, redfish and Greenland halibut;

- improve arrangements for data collection and analysis and for updating oversight of use of the EU’s financial contribution to sectoral support, with a view to ensuring that stocks fished by the EU are managed sustainably and that the quotas allocated to EU vessels are in fact for surplus stocks;

- ensure improvements in the available data on the fleet size and fishing effort of Greenland’s subsistence and small-scale fishing fleets;

- ensure that the protocol is renewed for a further two years in four years’ time;

- carry over to the allocation for 2022 all or part of the quotas left unused owing to the delay in the provisional application of the agreement, in line with the best scientific advice;

- ensure that special attention is paid to lost fishing nets, to the collection marine litter, to marine ecosystems and vulnerable species, to the identification of habitats and to bird by-catches, particularly in the context of support for the sector;

- engage in a long-term process of reflection to reduce the instability created by the UK’s departure from the EU, particularly in the fisheries sector;

- take full account of the SFPA when the EU establishes its geostrategic position on the Arctic Ocean.

Lastly, the resolution stressed the need for the Commission to keep the European Parliament informed at all stages of the implementation of the SFPA and its protocol.

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

2021/0037M(NLE) - 15/07/2021 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Pierre KARLESKIND (Renew, FR) containing a non-legislative motion for a resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of a 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 and the Implementation Protocol thereto.

As a reminder, the new agreement and protocol enable 12 EU vessels to make use of fishing opportunities in Greenland's waters for eight species (cod, pelagic redfish, demersal redfish, Greenland halibut, northern prawn, grenadier, capelin and Atlantic mackerel) for a period of four years, renewable for two years, in return for annual financial compensation from the EU of EUR 16 521 754, of which EUR 2 931 000 has been earmarked for support for and the development of Greenland's fisheries sector.

Previous agreement and protocol

The report underlined that both the Greenlandic and EU fisheries sectors benefit from this agreement both from a socio-economic point of view in terms of direct and indirect employment and gross value added generated by the operations of the EU fleet in Greenlandic waters. However, Members expressed concern at the lack of scientific data needed to draw up accurate estimates of stock levels.

New agreement and protocol

Members pointed out that fishing opportunities for the EU fleet have been cut by an average of 5% compared to the previous protocol. They also noted that the duration of the agreement is four years and that it can be renewed for two more years, which may represent a lack of visibility for European vessels. In addition, the EU's financial compensation is higher than under the previous protocol, while the contribution to sectoral support remains the same and the reference prices for shipowners' fishing authorisations have risen.

Members regretted that EU operators had lost almost four months before the provisional application of the agreement, which was only signed on 22 April 2021 due to the elections in Greenland and the need to form a government. They also stressed the complex nature of the negotiations and their context, marked by the parallel negotiation of the agreement with the United Kingdom, which delayed the conclusion of an agreement. Furthermore, they recalled that Greenland's starting position in these negotiations was a 30% reduction in fishing opportunities for the EU fleet.

In general, the report stressed that the Brexit has destabilised the whole relationship of the North Atlantic countries and that the resulting consequences for the North Sea and North East Atlantic fisheries should not be used to manipulate the distribution of quotas in the Northern Agreements. Members also stressed the importance of relations with Greenland in the context of an EU strategy on the Arctic and in the fight to prevent unregulated fishing on the high seas in the Central Arctic.

Recommendations and requests to the European Commission

The main recommendations to the Commission are as follows:

- ensure that the implementation of the agreement and the protocol thereto help to mitigate global warming and to permit adaptation to its growing effects, to preserve and restore biodiversity and to achieve the sustainability goals set in the European Green Deal, and is aligned with the objectives of the CFP;

- ensure the application of the precautionary approach to the currently exploited and targeted stocks such as cod, redfish and Greenland halibut;

- improve arrangements for data collection and analysis and for updating oversight of use of the EU's financial contribution to sectoral support, with a view to ensuring that stocks fished by the EU are managed sustainably and that the quotas allocated to EU vessels are in fact for surplus stocks;

- ensure improvements in the available data on the fleet size and fishing effort of Greenland's subsistence and small-scale fishing fleets;

- ensure that the protocol is renewed for a further two years in four years' time;

- carry over to the allocation for 2022 all or part of the quotas left unused owing to the delay in the provisional application of the agreement, in line with the best scientific advice;

- ensure that special attention is paid to lost fishing nets, to the collection marine litter, to marine ecosystems and vulnerable species, to the identification of habitats and to bird by-catches, particularly in the context of support for the sector;

- engage in a long-term process of reflection to reduce the instability created by the UK's departure from the EU, particularly in the fisheries sector;

- take full account of the SFPA when the EU establishes its geostrategic position on the Arctic Ocean.

Lastly, the report stressed the need for the Commission to keep the European Parliament informed at all stages of the implementation of the SFPA and its protocol.