



Basic information	
<b>2023/0353(NLE)</b> NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction  <b>Subject</b>  3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements	

Key players			
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>
	<div>ENVI</div> Environment, Climate and Food Safety		MODIG Silvia (The Left)
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>
	<div>PECH</div> Fisheries		MATIĆ Predrag Fred (S&D)
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>		<b>Commissioner</b>
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries		SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/10/2023	Preparatory document	COM(2023)0580 	Summary
26/03/2024	Legislative proposal published	07577/2024	
18/04/2024	Vote in committee		
19/04/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0177/2024	
22/04/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0337/2024	Summary

24/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/06/2024	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/07/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

#### Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/0353(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/13412

#### Documentation gateway

##### European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee opinion	<div>PECH</div>	<a href="#">PE758.196</a>	20/03/2024	
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE759.989</a>	22/03/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE760.940</a>	11/04/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A9-0177/2024</a>	19/04/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T9-0337/2024</a>	24/04/2024	<a href="#">Summary</a>

##### Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	<a href="#">07577/2024</a>	26/03/2024	

##### European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	<a href="#">COM(2023)0580</a> 	12/10/2023	<a href="#">Summary</a>

#### Final act

[Decision 2024/1830](#)  
[OJ OJ L 19.07.2024](#)

# Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

2023/0353(NLE) - 12/10/2023 - Preparatory document

**PURPOSE:** to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the agreement relating to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas not covered by national jurisdiction.

**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:** since 2004, the EU and its Member States have been engaged in an international process with the United Nations (UN) with a view to developing the agreement relating to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

Based on the relevant Council Decisions authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the EU, the Commission conducted negotiations from 2016 to 2023 with a view to concluding the BBNJ Agreement. The final text of the BBNJ Agreement was adopted by the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference on 19 June 2023. The EU signed the BBNJ Agreement on 20 September 2023.

**CONTENT:** the objective of this proposal is for the Commission to obtain authorisation from the Council to conclude the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement) on behalf of the European Union.

The BBNJ Agreement addresses the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Such areas cover nearly two-thirds of the world's ocean and about 95% of its volume and comprise the high seas and the international seabed area.

The objective of the BBNJ Agreement is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long term, through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of UNCLOS and further international cooperation and coordination.

Under the BBNJ Agreement, Parties are to cooperate for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through strengthening and enhancing cooperation with and promoting cooperation among relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies in the achievement of the objectives of this Agreement.

The Agreement covers four areas: (i) marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; (ii) measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; (iii) environmental impact assessments, and (iv) capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

The Agreement will:

- bring UNCLOS up to speed with the developments and challenges that have occurred in relation to marine biodiversity since the Convention's conclusion in 1982;
- support the achievement of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water);
- help reach the goals and targets set under the Global Biodiversity Framework (adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity), in particular the target to ensure effective conservation and management of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans by 2030;
- support the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

# Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

2023/0353(NLE) - 24/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 556 votes to 36, with 38 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Parliament **gave its consent** to the conclusion of the agreement.

As a reminder, the High Seas Treaty, or formally known as the Agreement on Law of the Sea in the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), was concluded on 4th March 2023 in New York and adopted by UN Parties on 19 June 2023. It took almost 20 years to negotiate. It will have a game-changing impact on strengthening Ocean governance. It will do so in particular by promoting greater High Seas biodiversity conservation, as well as equity and Ocean justice through its provisions on financing, capacity-building, technology transfer, the equitable access and sharing of marine genetic resources and ensuring the interests and contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are recognised.

The Treaty plugs many governance gaps in the ocean governance framework, especially as it provides a mechanism for identifying, establishing and managing representative networks of marine protected areas, while not undermining the mandate of competent organisations.

The Agreement covers four areas:

- marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits;
- measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;
- environmental impact assessments;
- capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.