



Basic information	
<p>2025/0202(NLE)</p> <p>NLE - Non-legislative enactments</p> <p>EC–São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2025–2029): Implementing Protocol</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>3.15.15.02 Fisheries agreements with African countries</p> <p>Geographical area</p> <p>Sao Tome and Principe</p>	<p>Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal</p>


Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	JUNCO GARCÍA Nora (ECR)	21/01/2026
		<p>Shadow rapporteur</p> <p>DO NASCIMENTO CABRAL Paulo (EPP)</p> <p>FRANQUEIRA RODRIGUES André (S&D)</p> <p>TÂNGER CORRÊA António (PfE)</p> <p>AGIRREGOITIA MARTÍNEZ Oihane (Renew)</p> <p>CAMARA MéliSSa (Greens /EFA)</p>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development	GOSIEWSKA Małgorzata (ECR)	14/11/2025
	Committee for budgetary assessment	Rapporteur for budgetary assessment	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	RZOŃCA Bogdan (ECR)	24/09/2025	
Council of the European Union			

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	KADIS Costas

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/07/2025	Preparatory document	COM(2025)0370 	Summary
08/10/2025	Legislative proposal published	11609/2025	Summary
12/11/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/04/2026	Vote in committee		
16/04/2026	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A10-0096/2026	
20/05/2026	Decision by Parliament	T10-0178/2026	Summary
20/05/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/06/2026	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/0202(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 58 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p7
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	PECH/10/03550

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE778.378	20/11/2025	
Committee draft report		PE781.112	21/01/2026	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE781.328	02/03/2026	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0096/2026	16/04/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0178/2026	20/05/2026	Summary
Council of the EU				

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	11609/2025	08/10/2025	Summary
European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2025)0370 	09/07/2025	Summary

Additional information			
Source	Document	Date	
European Commission	EUR-Lex		

EC–São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2025–2029): Implementing Protocol

2025/0202(NLE) - 09/07/2025 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude the protocol on the implementation (2025-2029) of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the Council.

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

BACKGROUND: the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community was signed on 30 October 2007 and entered into force on 29 August 2011 for a period of four years. The agreement is tacitly renewable for periods of four years, so it is still in force. A previous five-year FPA implementation protocol entered into force on 19 December 2019 and expired on 18 December 2024.

The Commission negotiated a new protocol with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. Following the negotiations, a protocol was initialled on 9 April 2025. The new protocol covers a period of four years from the date of provisional application, i.e., the date of its signature by the Parties.

The negotiation of a new protocol for the implementation of the fisheries partnership agreement with Sao Tome and Principe is part of the Union's external action towards the countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council should decide to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Protocol on the Implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community (2025-2029).

The objective of the Protocol is to allow Union vessels to conduct fishing activities in the fishing zone of Sao Tome and Principe, as well as to enable the Union and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to work more closely together to develop a sustainable fisheries policy, to promote the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in the fishing zone of Sao Tome and Principe and in the Atlantic Ocean, and to contribute to establishing decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

Fishing opportunities

The protocol grants fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in the fishing zone of Sao Tome and Principe, in accordance with the best available scientific advice and the resolutions and recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus.

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

- 26 tuna purse seiners;

- 9 surface longliners;

- support vessels in accordance with the relevant ICCAT resolutions and the limits set by Sao Tome and Principe legislation.

Financial counterpart

The annual financial contribution amounts to **EUR 825 000**, based on:

(a) an annual amount of EUR 325 000, for access to fishery resources in the fishing zone of Sao Tome and Principe, equivalent to a reference tonnage, for highly migratory species, of 6 500 tonnes per year;

(b) support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of Sao Tome and Principe amounting to EUR 500,000 per year. This support meets the objectives of the strategic plan for fisheries of Sao Tome and Principe.

The **sectoral support programme** defined within the framework of this protocol includes in particular actions for:

- support for monitoring, control and surveillance capacities of fishing activities, measures to deter and sanction infringements related to IUU fishing;
- the scientific assessment of the fishery resources of Sao Tome and Principe and management measures based on scientific advice,
- support for improving value chains for fishery products, including support for fishing communities, particularly through employment assistance and vocational training, with particular attention to women and young people.

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community establishes a Joint Committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Agreement and its implementing protocol. In addition, the Joint Committee may approve certain amendments to the protocol.

EC–São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2025–2029): Implementing Protocol

2025/0202(NLE) - 08/10/2025 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the protocol on the implementation (2025-2029) of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the Council.

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

BACKGROUND: the Council's draft concerns the approval, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community (2025-2029).

The objective of the Protocol is to allow Union vessels to conduct fishing activities in the fishing zone of Sao Tome and Principe, as well as to enable the Union and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to work more closely together to develop a sustainable fisheries policy, to promote the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in the fishing zone of Sao Tome and Principe and in the Atlantic Ocean, and to contribute to establishing decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

The new protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories: 26 tuna purse seiners; 9 surface longliners; support vessels. The annual financial contribution amounts to **EUR 825 000**.

The **sectoral support programme** defined within the framework of this protocol includes in particular actions for:

- support for monitoring, control and surveillance capacities of fishing activities, measures to deter and sanction infringements related to IUU fishing;
- the scientific assessment of the fishery resources of Sao Tome and Principe and management measures based on scientific advice,
- support for improving value chains for fishery products, including support for fishing communities, particularly through employment assistance and vocational training, with particular attention to women and young people.

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community establishes a **Joint Committee** responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Agreement and its implementing protocol. In addition, the Joint Committee may approve certain amendments to the protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of amendments to the Protocol, the Commission may approve such amendments on behalf of the Union under a simplified procedure.

The EU's position on amendments to the protocol should be established by the Council. Proposed amendments to the protocol will be approved unless a blocking minority of Member States objects.

Since the protocol has a duration of more than one fiscal year, the budgetary commitments it implies can be spread over the duration of the protocol for annual payments.

EC–São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2025–2029): Implementing Protocol

2025/0202(NLE) - 20/05/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 545 votes to 89, with 15 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community (2025–2029).

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

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community entered into force on 29 August 2011 and has been tacitly renewed ever since. The previous five-year FPA implementation protocol entered into force on 19 December 2019 and expired on 18 December 2024.

Based on Council Decision of 10 September 2024 authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union on a new implementing protocol to the FPA with São Tomé and Príncipe, the Commission conducted negotiations with the government of São Tomé and Príncipe, which led to the new Protocol 2025-2029.

The new protocol was initialled by the negotiators on 9 April 2025 and signed by the parties on 6 October 2025. It covers a period of four years from the date of its provisional application, namely the date of its signature by the parties (6 October 2025).

Fishing opportunities

The new Protocol provides fishing opportunities for Union vessels in São Tomé and Príncipe waters, based on best scientific advice and following the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). It aims to provide an updated framework, notably by taking into account the priorities of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and international standards.

The new Protocol allows European vessels to fish around 6 500 tonnes of tuna and other migratory species per year in the waters of São Tomé and Príncipe, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of ICCAT and within the limits set by the legislation of São Tomé and Príncipe. The Protocol provides fishing opportunities for 26 tuna seiners (15 for Spain, 11 for France) and 9 surface longliners (7 for Spain and 2 for Portugal).

Financial contribution

The EU's annual financial contribution amounts to EUR 825 000, which includes EUR 325 000 for access to fisheries resources (corresponding to a reference tonnage of 6 500 tonnes per year for highly migratory species) and EUR 500 000 to strengthen São Tomé and Príncipe's capacity in terms of sustainable fisheries management, control and surveillance, as well as support for small-scale fishing and local communities.