


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	2005/0249(CNS)	Procedure completed
Fisheries agreement EEC/Sao Tome and Principe: period from 1st June 2005 to 31st May 2006		
Subject 3.15.15.02 Fisheries agreements with African countries		
Geographical area Sao Tome and Principe		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		15/02/2006
		PPE-DE FREITAS Duarte	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development		25/01/2006
		PSE CARLOTTI Marie-Arlette	
	BUDG Budgets		20/09/2004
		Verts/ALE TRÜPEL Helga	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2741	11/07/2006
	General Affairs	2705	30/01/2006
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries		

Key events			
06/12/2005	Legislative proposal published	COM(2005)0630	Summary
16/02/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/04/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
20/04/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0132/2006	
16/05/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/05/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0194/2006	Summary
11/07/2006	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
11/07/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/07/2006	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2005/0249(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p3-a1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/6/32438

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2005)0630	07/12/2005	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE369.850	24/02/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE369.871	22/03/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE371.722	27/03/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0132/2006	20/04/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0194/2006	16/05/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2006)2902	22/06/2006	EC	

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Regulation 2006/1124 OJ L 200 22.07.2006, p. 0001-0002 Summary

Fisheries agreement EEC/Sao Tome and Príncipe: period from 1st June 2005 to 31st May 2006

PURPOSE : to extend by one year (until 31 May 2006) the Protocol annexed to the Fisheries Agreement between the EEC and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Regulation

CONTENT : the Protocol annexed to the Fisheries Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe expired on 31 May 2005.

The two parties agreed at the beginning of 2005 to extend the Protocol, in particular in order to work out certain difficulties relating to the implementation of the 2002-05 Protocol and to give the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe more time to prepare as well as possible for negotiations on a future partnership agreement, and to implement the action programme to support the necessary development of the fisheries sector.

The new government, which took office in March 2004, waited until the last minute to analyse the option of extending the protocol, despite numerous reminders in March, April and May 2005. The parties have finally decided to extend the Protocol for a period of one year, from 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006. The extension, in the form of an exchange of letters, was initiated by the two parties on 3 June 2005, and sets out the technical and financial conditions governing the fishing activities of EC vessels in the waters of São Tomé and Príncipe for the period from 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006.

The Commission proposes, on this basis, that the Council adopt the Regulation on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the Protocol. A proposal for a Council Decision on provisional application of the Agreement (pending its actual entry into

force) is the subject of a separate procedure.

The main features of the extended Protocol are unchanged.

The fishing opportunities set out in the Protocol are allocated to Member States as follows:

- tuna seiners: France:18 ; Spain: 18
- pole-and-line tuna vessels: Portugal: 2
- surface longliners: Spain: 20 ; Portugal: 5

If licence applications from these Member States do not cover all the fishing opportunities set out in the Protocol, the Commission may take into consideration licence applications from any other Member State.

The Member States whose vessels fish under the Agreement must notify the Commission of the quantities of each stock caught within the fishing zone of São Tomé and Príncipe in accordance with Commission Regulation 500/2001/EC.

For further information concerning the financial implications of this measure, please refer to the financial statement.

Fisheries agreement EEC/Sao Tome and Príncipe: period from 1st June 2005 to 31st May 2006

The committee adopted the report by Duarte FREITAS (EPP-ED, PT) broadly approving the proposed extension of the fishing protocol with São Tomé and Príncipe. The committee nevertheless adopted a few amendments under the consultation procedure repeating Parliament's previously-expressed comments regarding the provision of information before any renewal of fisheries agreements:

- Parliament's opinion on the extension or conclusion of fisheries partnership agreements should be sought as swiftly as possible, so that those opinions are not requested after the date of payment of any financial compensation;
- before any agreement is concluded on renewing the protocol, the Commission should submit to Parliament and Council a report on the application of the agreement and the conditions under which it was implemented, as well as the positions of the EU Member States which have an interest in its renewal;
- the Commission should also report to Parliament and Council on the results of the targeted actions described in the protocol.

Lastly, MEPs called on the Commission to submit a copy of the report on the evaluation study on 'deep-water crab' stocks scheduled for 2006, arguing that it was important to assess this stock and ascertain whether a fishing category can be reopened in São Tomé and Príncipe.

Fisheries agreement EEC/Sao Tome and Príncipe: period from 1st June 2005 to 31st May 2006

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Duarte FREITAS (EPP-ED, PT) and made a few amendments to the proposal. (Please see the summary of 19/04/2006.)

Fisheries agreement EEC/Sao Tome and Príncipe: period from 1st June 2005 to 31st May 2006

PURPOSE : to extend by one year (until 31 May 2006) the Protocol annexed to the Fisheries Agreement between the EEC and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Regulation 1124/2006/EC on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the Protocol setting out, for the period 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe.

CONTENT : the Protocol annexed to the Fisheries Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe expired on 31 May 2005. Under the terms of that Agreement, the Contracting Parties are to enter into negotiations, before the period of validity of the Protocol to the Agreement expires, to determine by mutual agreement the contents of the Protocol for the period that follows and, where applicable, the amendments or additions to be made to the Annex.

Pending negotiations on changes to be made to the existing Protocol approved by Council Regulation 2348/2002/EC, the EEC and São Tomé and Príncipe have decided to extend its validity for one year by means of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters.

The main features of the extended Protocol are unchanged.

The fishing opportunities set out in the Protocol are allocated to Member States as follows:

- tuna seiners: France:18 ; Spain: 18
- pole-and-line tuna vessels: Portugal: 2
- surface longliners: Spain: 20 ; Portugal: 5

If licence applications from these Member States do not cover all the fishing opportunities set out in the Protocol, the Commission may take into consideration licence applications from any other Member State.

The Member States whose vessels fish under the Agreement must notify the Commission of the quantities of each stock caught within the fishing zone of São Tomé and Príncipe in accordance with Commission Regulation 500/2001/EC.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 25/07/2006.