


Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2007/0209(CNS) Procedure completed
EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement See also 2011/0257(NLE) See also 2012/0134(NLE)	
Subject 3.15.15.02 Fisheries agreements with African countries	
Geographical area Guinea-Bissau	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		22/11/2007
		PSE CAPOULAS SANTOS Luis Manuel	
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development		05/11/2007
		PSE BORRELL FONTELLES Josep	
European Parliament	BUDG Budgets		20/09/2004
		Verts/ALE TRÜPEL Helga	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2860	17/03/2008
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2836	04/12/2007
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner BORG Joe	

Key events			
09/10/2007	Legislative proposal published	COM(2007)0580	Summary
25/10/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/02/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
29/02/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0053/2008	

10/03/2008	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/03/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0085/2008	Summary
17/03/2008	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/03/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/03/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2007/0209(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
	See also 2011/0257(NLE) See also 2012/0134(NLE)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2/3-a1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/6/54518

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2007)0580	09/10/2007	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE398.479	15/01/2008	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE396.815	29/01/2008	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE400.599	31/01/2008	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE400.693	28/02/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0053/2008	29/02/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0085/2008	11/03/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)2060	09/04/2008	EC	

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Regulation 2008/241](#)
[OJ L 075 18.03.2008, p. 0049](#) Summary

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement

PURPOSE: to conclude a Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

BACKGROUND: in May 2007, the EC and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau negotiated a Fisheries Partnership Agreement, which provides Community fishermen with fishing opportunities in the Guinea Bissau fishing zone. The Partnership Agreement, which is accompanied by a Protocol and Annexes, was signed for a period of four years and is renewable. **CONTENT:** the purpose of this proposal, therefore, is to conclude the renewed Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The main objective of the new Partnership Agreement is to strengthen cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in order to create a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and the sound exploitation of fisheries resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone.

In summary, the main provisions of the proposed Agreement and attached Protocol are as follows:

Scope: the Agreement sets out the principles, rules and procedures that govern economic, financial and technical issues as well as matters of scientific interest to both parties. It also covers: conditions governing access by Community vessels to Guinea-Bissau fishing zones; arrangements for policing fisheries in Guinea-Bissau waters (with a view to ensuring that conservation measures are complied with); the prevention of illegal and unregulated fishing; and lastly the setting up of fishing operator partnerships.

Principles: both parties agree to promote responsible fishing; to implement a sectoral fisheries policy; to carry out regular evaluation reports; to implement the Agreement according to good economic practice and social governance; and to agree that seamen from Guinea-Bissau and/or APC seamen on board Community vessels will be regulated according to standards set by the ILO.

Scientific co-operation: both the Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau agree to monitor the evolution of resources in the fishing zone off Guinea-Bissau through joint scientific meetings that will be held annually.

Community access: Community vessels will be given access to the fishing zones off the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. Community fishing activities will be subject to the laws and regulations in force in Guinea-Bissau.

Licences: Community vessels will only be allowed to fish in the waters off Guinea-Bissau if they are in possession of a fishing licence issued under this Agreement.

Financial Contribution: the Community agrees to pay a single financial contribution, which is set out in the Protocol attached to this Agreement. The single contribution is composed of two related elements. Firstly, access by Community vessels to the fishing off Guinea Bissau and secondly, to support responsible and sustainable fishing.

The financial contribution will amount to EUR 7 million per year. 35% of this (equivalent to EUR 2.450 million) will be allocated each year to support initiatives taken in the context of the sectoral fisheries policy to be drawn up by the Government of Guinea-Bissau. An additional specific contribution of EUR 500 000 per year will also be targeted to improve the health and hygiene conditions of fishery products. However, this contribution could also be used to support control and surveillance measures. The Protocol will contain a financial mechanism, with a maximum allocation of EUR 1 million per year, aiming to improve the use of fishing opportunities by ship-owners, and support for setting up joint ventures.

Fishing opportunities: The fishing opportunities set out in the Protocol to the Agreement will be allocated among the Member States as follows:

- shrimp fishing: Spain 1 421 GRT; Italy 1 776 GRT; Greece 137 GRT; Portugal 1 066 GRT.
- fin-fish/cephalopods: Spain 3 143 GRT; Italy 786 GRT; Greece 471 GRT;
- tuna seiners and surface longliners: Spain 10 vessels; France 9 vessels; Portugal 4 vessels.
- pole-and-line vessels: Spain 10 vessels; France 4 vessels.

If license applications from the Member States referred to above do not cover all the fishing opportunities fixed by the Protocol, the Commission may take into consideration license applications from any other Member State.

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS (PES, PT) amending, under the consultation procedure, the proposal for a regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Guinea-Bissau.

The principal amendments are based on the transparency and improvement of information provided by the European Parliament on the implementation of the agreement. In particular, Members call on the Commission to provide the Parliament with the following information:

- the conclusions of the meetings of the joint committee referred to in Article 10 of the Partnership Agreement, in order to better evaluate the agreement;
- an annual report on the results of the multiannual sectoral programming planned for the protocol (in order to discover whether the compensation paid by the EU is accurately calculated and whether it does, in fact, encourage sustainable exploitation of Guinea-Bissau's fishery resources) and on the adherence of Member States to the demands in terms of catch reporting arrangements (if this were not the case, the Commission could refuse fishing licence applications made by these countries the following year);
- a report on the application of the agreement and the conditions under which it was implemented, during the final year of the protocol's validity and before another agreement is concluded on its renewal; on the basis of this report and following consultation with the European Parliament, the Council shall grant the Commission a new negotiating mandate with a view to the adoption of a new protocol.

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement

The European Parliament adopted, by 559 to 61 with 16 abstentions, a legislative resolution amending the proposal for a regulation on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Guinea-Bissau.

The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS (PES, PT).

The principal amendments - adopted under the consultation procedure - deal with transparency and the improvement of information provided to the European Parliament on the implementation of the agreement. In particular, Members call on the Commission to provide Parliament with the following information:

- the conclusions of the meetings of the joint committee referred to in Article 10 of the Partnership Agreement, in order to better evaluate the agreement;
- an annual report on the results of the multiannual sectoral programming planned for the protocol;
- a report on the application of the agreement and the conditions under which it was implemented, during the final year of the protocol's validity and before another agreement is concluded on its renewal. On the basis of this report and following consultation with the European Parliament, the Council shall grant the Commission a new negotiating mandate with a view to the adoption of a new protocol.

The Commission shall evaluate each year whether the Member States whose vessels operate under the Protocol have complied with reporting requirements. Where they have not so complied, the Commission shall withhold their requests for fishing licences for the following year.

EC/Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Partnership Agreement

PURPOSE: to conclude a Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Council Regulation (EC) No 241/2008 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

CONTENT: the purpose of this Regulation is to conclude and approve the renewed Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The main objective of the new Partnership Agreement is to strengthen cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in order to create a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and the sound exploitation of fisheries resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone.

In summary, the main provisions of the renewed Agreement are as follows:

Scope: the Agreement sets out the principles, rules and procedures that govern economic, financial and technical issues as well as matters of scientific interest to both parties. It also covers: conditions governing access by Community vessels to Guinea-Bissau fishing zones; arrangements for policing fisheries in Guinea-Bissau waters (with a view to ensuring that conservation measures are complied with); the prevention of illegal and unregulated fishing; and lastly the setting up of fishing operator partnerships.

Principles: both parties agree to promote responsible fishing; to implement a sectoral fisheries policy; to carry out regular evaluation reports; to implement the Agreement according to good economic practice and social governance; and to agree that seamen from Guinea-Bissau and/or APC seamen on board Community vessels will be regulated according to standards set by the ILO.

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- pole-and-line vessels: Spain 10 vessels; France 4 vessels.

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ENTRY INTO FORCE: 18 March 2008.