


# Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	<a href="#">2007/0285(CNS)</a>	Procedure completed
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement SIOFA		
Subject 3.15.15.03 Fisheries agreements with Indian Ocean countries 6.40.07 Relations with African countries 6.40.13 Relations with/in the context of international organisations: UN, OSCE, OECD, Council of Europe, EBRD		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>PECH</b> Fisheries		23/01/2008
		ALDE <a href="#">MORILLON Philippe</a>	
	Committee for opinion on the legal basis	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>JURI</b> <a href="#">Legal Affairs</a>		30/01/2008
		ALDE <a href="#">WALLIS Diana</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">2892</a>	29/09/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	<a href="#">Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</a>		
	<a href="#">Communications Networks, Content and Technology</a>		

Key events			
19/12/2007	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2007)0831</a>	Summary
19/02/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/07/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
17/07/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A6-0315/2008</a>	
02/09/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/09/2008	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T6-0378/2008</a>	Summary
29/09/2008	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
29/09/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/10/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/0285(CNS)

Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
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/6/57781

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(2007)0831</a>	20/12/2007	EC	Summary
Specific opinion	JURI	<a href="#">PE402.704</a>	26/02/2008	EP	
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE404.388</a>	27/05/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A6-0315/2008</a>	17/07/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T6-0378/2008</a>	02/09/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)6073	17/10/2008	EC	

### Additional information

National parliaments	<a href="#">IPEX</a>
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>

### Final act

[Decision 2008/780](#)  
[OJ L 268 09.10.2008, p. 0027](#) Summary

## Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement SIOFA

**PURPOSE:** to conclude the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Council Decision.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2000, the South Indian Ocean fishing states together with FAO took the initiative to launch the process for the setting up of a new regional fisheries organisation (Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement).

In November 2000, the Commission was mandated by the Council to participate in the negotiations of this Agreement on behalf of the Community. After five Intergovernmental Conferences, interested parties reached agreement on a draft Fisheries Agreement. After a review, the final text was opened for signature at a Diplomatic Conference held in Rome on 7 July 2006.

The Community, through its active participation in the negotiations of the text, ensured that the text of the SIOFA Agreement reflects the latest legal international developments in international fisheries legislation. This new RFMO (Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) will exercise its responsibilities for the effective conservation and management of Non-Tuna species in the high seas of the Southern Indian Ocean according to the principles and standards laid down in the Law of the Sea.

**CONTENT:** bearing in mind that the Community has fishing interests in the South Indian Ocean and is also a Coastal State on behalf of the Reunion Island, Community participation in the SIOFA agreement is highly recommended.

That is why the Community signed the SIOFA Agreement on 7 July 2006, in conformity with the Council Decision No. 2006/496/EC adopted by the Council on 6 July 2006. The Community should therefore proceed to conclude the SIOFA Agreement.

That is precisely the purpose of this proposal, which aims to conclude the SIOFA Agreement in order to become full member of said agreement.

The Agreement shall enter into force ninety days from the date of receipt by the Depositary of the fourth instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, provided that at least two of such instruments are deposited by States bordering the Area.

The text of the Agreement is attached to the Decision.

## Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement SIOFA

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The Committee on Fisheries adopted a report drafted by Philippe MORILLON (ALDE, FR) and made one amendment to the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement. It changed the legal base to the second subparagraph of Article 300(3) from a reference to the first subparagraph. The committee requested and accepted advice from the Legal Affairs Committee that this was a case of the assent procedure rather than the consultation procedure, since a specific institutional framework was being laid down in the international agreement concerned (establishment of subsidiary bodies which will take important decisions).

## Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement SIOFA

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The European Parliament adopted by 646 votes to 26 with 14 abstentions, a legislative resolution under the consultation procedure, making one amendment to the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement. The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Philippe MORILLON (ALDE, FR) on behalf of the Committee on Fisheries.

Parliament changed the legal base to the second subparagraph of Article 300(3) from a reference to the first subparagraph. It accepted advice from the Legal Affairs Committee that this was a case of the assent procedure rather than the consultation procedure, since a specific institutional framework was being laid down in the international agreement concerned (establishment of subsidiary bodies which will take important decisions).

## Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement SIOFA

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**PURPOSE:** to conclude the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.

**LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Council Decision 2008/780/EC on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.

**CONTENT:** the Council approved, on behalf of the Community, the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

The Agreement, signed in 2006, establishes a new regional fisheries management organisation responsible for ensuring the conservation and management of Non-Tuna species in the high seas of the Southern Indian Ocean.

The Community has fishing interests in the South Indian Ocean and is also a Coastal State on behalf of the Reunion Island. Furthermore, under the terms of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Community is obliged to cooperate with other relevant stakeholders in the management and conservation of the resources in this region. That is why the Agreement is approved on behalf of the Community.

A specific procedure is provided for to enable this instrument to enter into force for all the signatory parties.