Procedure file

Basic information

NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2015/0152(NLE)	Procedure completed

EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020. Protocol

See also 2006/0262(CNS)

Subject
3.15.15.08 Fisheries agreements with Northern and Baltic countries

Geographical area
Denmark
Greenland

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		28/09/2015
		AFFRONTE Marco	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		KUHN Werner	
		CHRISTENSEN Ole	
		VAN DALEN Peter	
		BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development		
	BUDG Budgets		03/09/2015
		ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3464	17/05/2016
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	VELLA Karmenu	

Key events

16/07/2015	Preparatory document	COM(2015)0346	Summary
30/10/2015	Legislative proposal published	11634/2015	Summary
14/12/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/03/2016	Vote in committee		
23/03/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0067/2016	Summary
12/04/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/04/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0095/2016	Summary
17/05/2016	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/05/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/05/2016	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/0152(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
	See also 2006/0262(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p7
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/8/03946

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		COM(2015)0347	16/07/2015	EC	
Preparatory document		COM(2015)0346	16/07/2015	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		11634/2015	30/10/2015	CSL	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		11633/2015	30/10/2015	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE573.150	15/12/2015	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE567.490	16/02/2016	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE573.194	18/02/2016	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0067/2016	23/03/2016	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0095/2016	12/04/2016	EP	Summary

Final act

Decision 2016/817

OJ L 136 25.05.2016, p. 0001 Summary

EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020. Protocol

PURPOSE: the conclusion of a protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other.

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: on the basis of a mandate granted to it by the Council, the European Commission on behalf of the Union negotiated with the Government of Denmark and Government of Greenland in view of renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and these two territorial entities.

Following these negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 20 March 2015.

The new Protocol is in line with the objectives of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement, strengthens the cooperation between the Union and Greenland and promotes a partnership framework in which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the Greenlandic fishing zone in the interest of both Parties.

CONTENT: with this proposal for a Decision, the Commission proposes the conclusion of a protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other.

Period of application: the Fishing Protocol would cover a period of five years from the date of provisional application ? i.e. from the date of its signature and from 1 January 2016 at the earliest.

Fishing opportunities: the Protocol grants fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing zone of Greenland, in line with relevant conservation and management measures and within the limits of the available surplus.

To this effect, the protocol sets an indicative annual level of fishing opportunities granted by Greenland (in tonnes) to Union vessels by species:

- cod;
- pelagic redfish;
- demersal redfish;
- halibut;
- northern prawn;
- capelin;
- grenadier;
- by-catch (catches of all marine living organisms where these are not mentioned as target species on the fishing authorization of the vessel or do not meet the minimum size requirements; these are limited to a rate of 5% in the Northern prawn fisheries and 10% in other fisheries.

Following results to be assessed by the ICES Advisory Committee on the ongoing investigations and surveys at sea carried out on the different components of Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) in Greenland waters and more particularly on spawners located West Greenland inshore, West Greenland offshore and East Greenland offshore, the Joint Committee may revise or adjust the indicative fishing opportunities for cod.

Financial contribution: the Protocol provides for a total annual financial contribution of EUR 17.799.978 per year for its duration.

This amount corresponds to:

- EUR 13.168.978 per year for the access to the Greenlandic fishing zone,
- EUR 2.931.000 per year, corresponding to the additional envelope paid by the EU in support of Greenland's fisheries policy and
- EUR 1.700.000 as an annual reserve for additional and new fishing opportunities that may be accepted by the EU subject to scientific advice and surplus resources.

The two Parties have agreed to cooperate to implement Greenlandic sectorial fisheries policy and to that end shall continue the policy dialogue on the relevant programming.

Specific provisions: provision is made for the setting of principles for responsible fisheries management. Provision is also made for an experimental fisheries programme for species not included in the protocol, as well as scientific cooperation on sustainable fishery exploitation.

EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020. Protocol

PURPOSE: to conclude the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand.

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: on 28 June 2007, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 753/2007 concerning the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand.

The current Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for by the Partnership Agreement expires on 31 December 2015.

The Union has negotiated with the Government of Denmark and the Government of Greenland a new protocol to the Partnership Agreement setting out the fishing possibilities and financial contribution. The Protocol was signed in accordance with a Council Decision and has been applied on provisional basis.

It is now necessary to approve the Protocol on behalf of the Union.

CONTENT, with this proposed Decision, the Council is called upon to conclude the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, Denmark and Greenland, on the other hand, on behalf of the Union (for further details as regards the fishing opportunities provided for in this Fisheries Partnership Agreement, please refer to the summary of the initial legislative proposal dated 16.7.2015).

Simplified procedure to define the EUs position within the EU-Greenland Joint Committee: the Agreement sets up a Joint Committee to monitor the application of the Partnership Agreement and ensure its implementation. Furthermore, in accordance with the Protocol, the Joint Committee may approve certain modifications to the Protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such modifications, it is appropriate to empower the Commission, subject to specific conditions, to approve them under a simplified procedure.

Annex: the draft Decision lays down the powers conferred on the Commission as well as the procedure for the establishment of the EUs position within the Joint Committee. The Commission shall be authorised to negotiate with Greenland and, modifications to the Protocol in respect of the following issues:

- fixing of fishing opportunities of the Protocol, including fixing the reference price and the authorisation fees;
- decision on the modalities of the sectoral support;
- adoption of measures to ensure sustainable exploitation of the fishery resources in accordance with the Protocol.

In the Joint Committee, the Union shall act in accordance with the objectives pursued by the Union within the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy. It shall also promote positions that are consistent with the relevant rules adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and in the context of joint management by coastal States.

When a decision on modifications to the Protocol is foreseen to be adopted during a Joint Committee Meeting, the necessary steps shall be taken so as to ensure that the position to be expressed on behalf of the Union takes account of the latest statistical, biological and other relevant information transmitted to the Commission.

Technical provisions are foreseen in order to set the framework and the practical conditions as regards the approval of the amendments to the Protocol.

To this effect, and based on that information, a document setting out the particulars of the proposed Union position shall be transmitted by the Commission services, in sufficient time before the relevant Joint Committee Meeting, to the Council or to its preparatory bodies for consideration and approval.

EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020. Protocol

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Marco AFFRONTE (EFDD, IT) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand.

The committee recommended the European Parliament to give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

Members approved the new Protocol as it strengthens the cooperation between the Union and Greenland. However, they drew attention to some aspects that need to be improved such as establishing the sustainable exploitation of fish stocks; following scientific advice and the EU interests in fisheries arrangements with Northern partners as well as more control and adjustment to the EU's financial compensation, according to the ex-post assessment of the protocol.

Members also stressed the importance of respecting the principles and objectives covering the Common Fisheries Policies and the Fisheries Partnership Agreements as regards fish stocks.

Lastly, Members regretted that the European Parliament has a limited role in the adoption of the Fisheries Partnership agreements through only a consent procedure. They believe that the European Parliament should have a more active role and should be immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedures concerning the FPAs or its renewals in order to increase transparency and democratic accountability of the protocols.

EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020. Protocol

The European Parliament adopted by 666 votes to 32, with 4 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by

the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand.

In line with the recommendation made by the Committee on Fisheries, Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Protocol.

To recall, on 16 July 2015, the European Commission adopted the proposals for renewing the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union on the one hand and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand.

The New Protocol provides for an EU financial contribution of EUR 17.8 million per year, comprising:

- an annual amount for the access to the Greenlandic EEZ of EUR 13.17 million (calculated based on reference prices for each species) including a financial reserve of EUR 1.7 million for additional quantities of species made available by Greenland;
- a specific amount of EUR 2.931 million provided to support Greenlandic sectoral fisheries policy. The sectoral policy support is broken down into three main areas: administration (e.g. capacity development); control and enforcement; and scientific research and advice.

EC/Denmark/Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020. Protocol

PURPOSE: to conclude a protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and Denmark and Greenland, on the other hand.

NON LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2016/817 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand.

CONTENT: with this Decision, the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand, is approved on behalf of the Union.

Fishing opportunities: the Protocol grants fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing zone of Greenland, in line with relevant conservation and management measures and within the limits of the available surplus.

To this effect, the protocol sets an indicative annual level of fishing opportunities granted by Greenland (in tonnes) to Union vessels by species:

- cod;
- pelagic redfish;
- demersal redfish;
- halibut;
- northern prawn;
- capelin;
- grenadier;
- by-catch (catches of all marine living organisms where these are not mentioned as target species on the fishing authorization of the vessel or do not meet the minimum size requirements; these are limited to a rate of 5% in the Northern prawn fisheries and 10% in other fisheries.

Following results to be assessed by the ICES Advisory Committee on the ongoing investigations and surveys at sea carried out on the different components of Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) in Greenland waters and more particularly on spawners located West Greenland inshore, West Greenland offshore and East Greenland offshore, the Joint Committee may revise or adjust the indicative fishing opportunities for cod.

Experimental fisheries: the Protocol contains provisions setting out the principle of sustainable fisheries. A programme for experimental fisheries for species not included in the Protocol is provided for as well as scientific cooperation with the aim of strengthening the principles of sustainable fisheries.

Financial contribution: the Protocol provides for a total annual financial contribution of EUR 17.799.978 per year for its duration.

This amount corresponds to:

- EUR 13.168.978 per year for the access to the Greenlandic fishing zone,
- EUR 2.931.000 per year, corresponding to the additional envelope paid by the EU in support of Greenland's fisheries policy and
- EUR 1.700.000 as an annual reserve for additional and new fishing opportunities that may be accepted by the EU subject to scientific advice and surplus resources.

The two Parties have agreed to cooperate to implement Greenlandic sectorial fisheries policy and to that end shall continue the policy dialogue on the relevant programming.

Joint committee: the Partnership Agreement sets up a Joint Committee to monitor the application of the Partnership Agreement and ensure its implementation. Furthermore, in accordance with the Protocol, the Joint Committee may approve certain modifications to the Protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such modifications, the Commission is empowered, subject to specific conditions, to approve them under a simplified procedure.

Period of application: the Protocol covers a period of five years from 1.1.2016.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision enters into force on 17.5.2016.