

# Procedure file

| Basic information   |                |
|---|----------------|
| NLE - Non-legislative enactments  | 2015/0229(NLE) |
| Procedure completed   |                |
| EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 16 November 2015 to 15 November 2019.<br>Protocol<br>See also <a href="#">2006/0168(CNS)</a> |                |
| Subject<br>3.15.15.02 Fisheries agreements with African countries   |                |
| Geographical area<br>Mauritania   |                |

| Key players                   |   |   |            |
|-------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| European Parliament           | Committee responsible   | Rapporteur  | Appointed  |
|                               |  Fisheries                         |  <a href="#">MATO Gabriel</a>               | 28/10/2015 |
|                               |   | Shadow rapporteur   |            |
|                               |   |  <a href="#">RODUST Ulrike</a>            |            |
|                               |   |  <a href="#">VAN DALEN Peter</a>          |            |
|                               |   |  <a href="#">BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun</a> |            |
|                               |  <a href="#">AFFRONTI Marco</a> |   |            |
|                               | Committee for opinion   | Rapporteur for opinion  | Appointed  |
|                               |  Development                     |  <a href="#">CORRAO Ignazio</a>           | 07/01/2016 |
|                               |  Budgets                         |  <a href="#">GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL Eider</a> | 03/12/2015 |
| Council of the European Union | Council configuration   | Meeting   | Date       |
|                               | <a href="#">General Affairs</a>   | <a href="#">3467</a>  | 24/05/2016 |
| European Commission           | Commission DG   | Commissioner  |            |
|                               | <a href="#">Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</a>  | VELLA Karmenu   |            |

| Key events |   |   |         |
|------------|---|---|---------|
| 01/10/2015 | Preparatory document  | <a href="#">COM(2015)0477</a>   | Summary |
| 27/10/2015 | Legislative proposal published                                  | <a href="#">12773/2015</a>  | Summary |
| 23/11/2015 | Committee referral announced in Parliament                      |   |         |
| 19/04/2016 | Vote in committee   |   |         |
| 25/04/2016 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | <a href="#">A8-0147/2016</a>  | Summary |
| 09/05/2016 | Debate in Parliament  |  |         |
| 10/05/2016 | Results of vote in Parliament                                   |  |         |
| 10/05/2016 | Decision by Parliament  | <a href="#">T8-0209/2016</a>  | Summary |
| 24/05/2016 | Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament         |   |         |
| 24/05/2016 | End of procedure in Parliament                                  |   |         |
| 02/06/2016 | Final act published in Official Journal                         |   |         |

| Technical information      |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Procedure reference        | 2015/0229(NLE)   |
| Procedure type             | NLE - Non-legislative enactments   |
| Procedure subtype          | Consent by Parliament  |
|                            | See also <a href="#">2006/0168(CNS)</a>  |
| Legal basis                | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p7; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2 |
| Other legal basis          | Rules of Procedure EP 159  |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed  |
| Committee dossier          | PECH/8/04663   |

| Documentation gateway   |             |                               |            |     |         |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----|---------|
| Document attached to the procedure                              |             | <a href="#">COM(2015)0471</a> | 01/10/2015 | EC  |         |
| Document attached to the procedure                              |             | <a href="#">COM(2015)0474</a> | 01/10/2015 | EC  |         |
| Preparatory document  |             | <a href="#">COM(2015)0477</a> | 01/10/2015 | EC  | Summary |
| Legislative proposal  |             | <a href="#">12773/2015</a>    | 27/10/2015 | CSL | Summary |
| Document attached to the procedure                              |             | <a href="#">12776/2015</a>    | 27/10/2015 | CSL |         |
| Committee draft report  |             | <a href="#">PE575.130</a>     | 02/03/2016 | EP  |         |
| Committee opinion   | <b>BUDG</b> | <a href="#">PE571.800</a>     | 17/03/2016 | EP  |         |
| Committee opinion   | <b>DEVE</b> | <a href="#">PE573.190</a>     | 17/03/2016 | EP  |         |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading |             | <a href="#">A8-0147/2016</a>  | 25/04/2016 | EP  | Summary |

## Final act

[Decision 2016/870](#)

[OJ L 145 02.06.2016, p. 0001](#) Summary

# EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 16 November 2015 to 15 November 2019. Protocol

**PURPOSE:** to conclude a Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Mauritania.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Council Decision.

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

**BACKGROUND:** on the basis of an authorization from Council, the Commission negotiated, on behalf of the EU, the renewal of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Mauritania. At the end of those negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 10 July 2015.

It is now appropriate to conclude that Protocol.

**CONTENT:** the draft decision calls on the Council to approve the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Mauritania for a period of four years on behalf of the Union.

**Objectives:** the main aim of the Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in Mauritanian waters taking into account available scientific assessments, in particular those of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus.

The objective is to also enhance cooperation between the European Union and Mauritania, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the fishing zone of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, in the interests of both parties.

**Fishing opportunities:** the Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories:

- Vessels fishing for crustaceans other than spiny lobster and crab: 5 000 tonnes and 25 vessels (Category 1);
- Black hake (non-freezer) trawlers and bottom longliners: 6 000 tonnes and 6 vessels (Category 2);
- Vessels fishing for demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls: 3 000 tonnes and 6 vessels (Category 3);
- Tuna seiners: 12 500 tonnes (reference tonnage) and 25 vessels (Category 4);
- Pole-and-line tuna vessels and longliners: 7 500 tonnes (reference tonnage) and 15 vessels (Category 5);
- Pelagic freezer trawlers: 247 500 and 19 vessels (Category 6);
- Non-freezer pelagic vessels: 15 000 tonnes (deducted from volume under category 6 if used) and 2 vessels (Category 7).

**Financial contribution:** the annual financial contribution has been set at EUR 59 125 000 per year, on the basis of:

- a total allowable catch of 261 500 tonnes for fishing categories 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 and a reference tonnage of 20 000 tonnes for fishing categories 4 and 5 of the Protocol, corresponding to an amount linked to access to EUR 55 000 000 per year, and
- support for the development of the sectoral fisheries policy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania amounting to EUR 4 125 000 per year. This support meets the aims of national fishing policy and in particular the needs of Mauritania as regards supporting scientific and technical cooperation, training, fisheries monitoring, protecting the environment and development infrastructure.

**Duration of the agreement:** the Protocol covers a period of four years from the date of provisional application, i.e. from the date of its signature.

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It is now appropriate to conclude that Protocol on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: the draft decision calls on the Council to approve the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Mauritania for a period of four years on behalf of the Union.

Objectives: the main aim of the Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in Mauritanian waters taking into account available scientific assessments, in particular those of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus.

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Duration of the agreement: the Protocol covers a period of four years from the date of provisional application i.e. from the date of its signature.

Joint Committee: Article 10 of the Partnership Agreement establishes a Joint Committee which is responsible for monitoring the application of the Partnership Agreement and ensuring that it is implemented. The Joint Committee may approve certain amendments to the Protocol.

In order to facilitate the approval of such amendments, the Commission should be empowered, subject to specific conditions, to approve these amendments under a simplified procedure (in particular the review of fishing opportunities, decision on the modalities of the sectoral support in accordance with the Protocol as well as conditions governing fishing activities).

## EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 16 November 2015 to 15 November 2019. Protocol

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The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Gabriel MATO (EPP, ES) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years.

The committee called on the European Parliament to give its consent to the conclusion of the Protocol.

In a short justification accompanying the report, Members stated that the new agreement has remedied some of the shortcomings that undermined the usefulness of the previous protocol. The new protocol also makes improvements for the fleet targeting highly migratory species.

According to the short justification, the new protocol represents a major step forward by comparison with the previous one, and the new commitments given by Mauritania in relation to transparency and priority access for the European fleet are welcome, particularly bearing in mind the bitter experience of previous years.

A further highly positive element is the greater degree of balance that has been achieved between financial contribution and fishing opportunities. This, along with the changes made to the technical measures, has substantially improved the cost/benefit ratio of the agreement with Mauritania.

Despite efforts made by the negotiators on improving fishing opportunities, Members regretted that Mauritania remained opposed to certain landings which will have a significant adverse effect on employment at EU level.

The Commission is urged to raise this issue at the meetings of the Joint Committee, with the aim of finding a solution that will allow landings to be made at ports in Gran Canaria, which offer better conditions for controlling catches, until such time as Mauritanian ports have more highly developed infrastructure.

The Joint Committee should also seriously consider any realistic possibility of increasing the quotas allocated to the European fleet, taking account of stock developments, and including the cephalopod category if at all feasible, even if fishing for these species is initially on an experimental basis only.

## EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 16 November 2015 to 15 November 2019. Protocol

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The European Parliament adopted by 585 votes to 41, with 41 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 financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years.

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

The main aim of the Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in Mauritanian waters taking into account available scientific assessments, in particular those of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus.

The objective is to also enhance cooperation between the European Union and Mauritania, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the fishing zone of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, in the interests of both parties.

## EC/Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution from 16 November 2015 to 15 November 2019. Protocol

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**PURPOSE:** to conclude a Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Mauritania.

**NON LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Council Decision (EU) 2016/870 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for a period of four years

**CONTENT:** with this Decision, the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Mauritania for a period of four years is approved on behalf of the Union.

**Objectives:** the Protocol aims to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in Mauritanian waters taking into account available scientific assessments, in particular those of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus.

The objective is to also enhance cooperation between the European Union and Mauritania, thereby creating a partnership framework within which to develop a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the fishing zone of Mauritania.

**Fishing opportunities:** the Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories:

- vessels fishing for crustaceans other than spiny lobster and crab: 5 000 tonnes and 25 vessels (Category 1);
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**Duration of the agreement:** the Protocol covers a period of four years from 16.11.2015.

**Joint committee:** the Partnership Agreement establishes a Joint Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the application of the Partnership Agreement and ensuring that it is implemented. 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 these modifications under a simplified procedure.

**ENTRY INTO FORCE:** the Decision enters into force on 24.5.2016.