












Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2023/0147(NLE)	Procedure completed
EC/Kiribati Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2023-2028). Implementation Protocol		
See also 2007/0062(CNS) See also 2012/0229(NLE)		
Subject 3.15.15.06 Fisheries agreements with Pacific countries		
Geographical area Kiribati		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Fisheries		05/06/2023
		 PIMENTA LOPES João	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 SCHREIJER-PIERIK Annie	
		 AGUILERA Clara	
		 BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	
		 KELLER Ska	
		 RAFALSKA Elżbieta	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union European Commission	 Development		18/07/2023
	 Budgets		24/10/2023
		 HERBST Niclas	
	Commission DG	Commissioner	

Key events

16/05/2023	Preparatory document	COM(2023)0251	Summary
05/10/2023	Legislative proposal published	09862/2023	Summary
19/10/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/11/2023	Vote in committee		
30/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0380/2023	
12/12/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/12/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0452/2023	Summary
16/01/2024	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
24/01/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/0147(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
	See also 2007/0062(CNS) See also 2012/0229(NLE)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/12058

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		COM(2023)0253	16/05/2023	EC	
Preparatory document		COM(2023)0251	16/05/2023	EC	Summary
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE752.754	21/09/2023	EP	
Committee draft report		PE753.774	04/10/2023	EP	
Legislative proposal		09862/2023	05/10/2023	CSL	Summary
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE755.002	16/11/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0380/2023	30/11/2023	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0452/2023	12/12/2023	EP	Summary

EC/Kiribati Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2023-2028). Implementation Protocol

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the Union, the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Kiribati, of the other part (2023-2028).

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: the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other, was signed on 28 April 2008 and entered into force on 30 April 2008 for a period of six years. The first Protocol implementing the FPA expired on 15 September 2012. The second such Protocol expired on 15 September 2015.

On 26 January 2015, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for a new Protocol to the FPA between the European Union and the Republic of Kiribati. Following these negotiations, the new Protocol was initialled by the negotiators on 18 December 2022. The new protocol covers a period of five years from its date of provisional application, i.e. the date of signature by both parties.

The negotiation of the new Protocol implementing the FPA forms part of the EU's external action towards the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, and takes particular account of the EU's objectives regarding respect for democratic principles and human rights.

CONTENT: the purpose of the proposal is to seek the Council's authorisation for the conclusion of the new Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Kiribati, of the other part (2023-2028).

The objective of the Protocol is to implement the Fisheries Partnership Agreement so as to grant fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing areas within Kiribati waters and to enable the Union and Kiribati to work more closely on promoting cooperation in the field of sustainable development of the oceans, fishery policy, while contributing to decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

Fishing opportunities

The aim of the new Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to EU vessels in the Kiribati fishing zones, in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The new Protocol allows Union vessels to fish in Kiribati waters for tuna species and provides for the following fishing opportunities:

- 4 tuna purse seine vessels, with an access to Kiribati waters for 160 days per year;
- possible additional days per year can be made available to Union vessels, upon request.

Financial contribution

The annual financial contribution from the Union is EUR 760 000, based on:

- an annual amount for access to fishery resources for the categories provided for in the Protocol, set at EUR 360 000 for the duration of the new Protocol;
- support for the development of Kiribatis sectoral fisheries policy amounting to EUR 400 000 per year, for the duration of the new Protocol.

This support meets the objectives of Kiribatis policy on the sustainable management of their maritime fishery resources for the entire duration of the new Protocol.

The Commission will be empowered to approve, on behalf of the Union, amendments to the Protocol adopted by the Joint Committee set up by the Partnership Agreement.

EC/Kiribati Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2023-2028). Implementation Protocol

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the Union, the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Kiribati, of the other part (2023-2028).

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: the Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Kiribati, of the other part (2023-2028) has been signed. The Protocol should now be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council Decision seeks to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other (2023-2028).

The objective of the Protocol is to implement the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other so as to grant fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing areas within Kiribati waters and to enable the Union and Kiribati to work more closely on promoting cooperation in the field of sustainable development of the oceans, in fishery policy and the blue economy, while contributing to decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities for Union vessels in the fishing areas within Kiribati waters, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and following the conservation and management measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The Joint Committee may approve certain amendments to the Protocol. To facilitate the approval of such amendments, the Commission should be empowered, subject to specific substantive and procedural conditions, to approve them on behalf of the Union under a simplified procedure.

The Unions position on amendments that are proposed to the Protocol should be established by the Council. The proposed amendments should be approved unless a blocking minority objects to them.

This Decision should enter into force as soon as possible in view of the economic importance of Union fishing activities in Kiribati waters and the need to reduce as much as possible the time period before such activities can resume.

EC/Kiribati Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2023-2028). Implementation Protocol

The European Parliament adopted by 536 votes to 36, with 40 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other.

Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the protocol.

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other, was signed on 28 April 2008, and entered into force on 30 April 2008 for a duration of six years. The first Protocol on the implementation of the FPA expired on 15 September 2012. The second Protocol expired on 15 September 2015.

On 26 January 2015, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for a new Protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Kiribati. Negotiations started in 2015 but were interrupted by the IUU yellow-carding process and the pandemic.

Following those negotiations, the new Protocol was signed by the negotiators on 18 December 2022. The new Protocol is in force for a period of five years from the date of its provisional application, i.e. the date of signature by both parties.

The aim of the new Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to EU Member State vessels in the fishing areas within Kiribati waters in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The new Protocol allows EU Member State vessels to fish tuna species in Kiribati waters and offers fishing opportunities to four tuna purse seiners, with access to Kiribati waters for 160 days per year. Additional days per year can be made available to EU Member State vessels on request.

The annual financial contribution from the Union is EUR 760 000, distributed as follows:

- an annual amount fixed at EUR 360 000 for the duration of the new Protocol to access fishery resources for the categories provided for in the Protocol;
- support for the development of Kiribatis sectoral fisheries policy for an annual amount of EUR 400 000 for the duration of the new Protocol.

The Commission will be empowered to approve, on behalf of the EU, amendments to the Protocol adopted by the Joint Committee established by the Partnership Agreement.