**Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution** **on the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024)**

1. **Rapporteur:** João FERREIRA (GUE/NGL / PT)
2. **Reference numbers:** 2019/0090M (NLE) / A9-0013/2020 / P9\_TA-PROV(2020)0137
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 18 June 2020
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Fisheries (PECH)
5. **Brief analysis/assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

In its resolution, the European Parliament notes the importance of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SEPA) between EU and Guinea Bissau, both for Guinea Bissau and for EU fleets operating in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone. It emphasises however that there is scope for more effective fisheries cooperation to contribute to the development of the local fisheries sector in this country. It calls on the Commission to take measures in order to maximise the impact of the sectoral support component of the agreement on the fisheries sector of Guinea-Bissau. It welcomes novelties of the new Fisheries Protocol such as the contribution of EU vessels to food security in Guinea-Bissau by direct landings and the transition to a fisheries management system based on total allowable catch (TAC). Furthermore, it considers essential that the provisions set out in the Protocol on sectoral support are fully applied so that it contributes, together with other development instruments and funds available, to the full implementation of the national strategy for fisheries and the blue economy*.*

1. **Response to the requests in the resolution and overview of the action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

The Commission welcomes this resolution and believes that the new Protocol to the EU-Guinea-Bissau Fisheries Agreement is an opportunity to improve the management of fisheries resources in Guinea Bissau and contribute further to the development of sustainable local fisheries.

The Commission is determined to ensure proper implementation of the Protocol. In this context, it will monitor the global fishing effort in Guinea-Bissau waters, and will see to the compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and transparency throughout the period of implementation of the Protocol. It will also promote the principle of sustainability and sound scientific advice, inter alia by continuing its work with relevant scientific bodies, thus contributing to improved data collection and analysis, the monitoring of vessels’ activities and by supporting Guinea-Bissau’s transition to a fisheries management system based on catches rather than on effort. It will also take into account the need to protect Guinea-Bissau’s marine and coastal ecosystems.

Regarding sectoral support, the Commission stands ready to work with Guinea-Bissau authorities to maximise the use and the impact of this component of the SFPA Protocol, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the national strategy for fisheries and the blue economy and to strengthening the local fisheries sector. In this regard, the Commission agrees that the objectives for sectoral support mentioned under paragraph 7 of the resolution are fully relevant and should be reflected in the priority actions to be financed under the sectoral support. The Commission also considers that EU cooperation and development assistance policies should be taken into account to create synergies and complementarities between these policies and the SFPA.

In addition, the Protocol has a positive social and economic impact as it generates jobs both at sea and in port. Finally, the Commission welcomes the idea to involve further artisanal fishermen’s associations, and other representatives of coastal communities and civil society organisations in the implementation of the Protocol.