**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 Agreement on a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership between the
European Union and the Republic of Senegal**

1. **Rapporteur:** Izaskun BILBAO BARANDICA (Renew Europe / ES)
2. **Reference numbers:** 2019/0226M (NLE) / A9-0182/2020 / P9\_TA-PROV(2020)0295
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 11 November 2020
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Fisheries (PECH)
5. **Brief analysis/assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The European Parliament’s resolution supports the conclusion of the new Protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the EU and the Republic of Senegal. It recognises that the SFPA has ensured sustainable fishing activities of the EU fleet for tuna, and to some extent on demersal fishery, while noting that the stock of hake is under pressure at regional level.

The European Parliament calls for reinforcing the monitoring of marine biological resources and training of scientific observers, including for sensitive bycatches monitoring (paragraph 5), stresses the need for regional scientific cooperation to take into account fishing activities and fish meal production in neighbouring countries (paragraphs 6 and 15), and the need for transparency on overall fishing efforts (paragraph 7). It calls for an operationalisation of the electronic recording and reporting (ERS) and updating of the vessel monitoring system (VMS), as well as stronger port surveillance (paragraphs 8 and 13). Parliament welcomes that the SFPA encourages selectivity measures to reduce incidental catches of sensitive species (paragraph 9). It also calls on the Commission to monitor the implementation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention for better employment conditions of signed in seamen from Senegal (paragraph 11), and to consult stakeholders and civil society in relation to fisheries as an important contributor to food security, as well as to ensure transparency of the management of sectoral support funds.

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

As regards the monitoring of marine biological resources, the Protocol emphasises the objective of developing scientific capacities, research and data collection. The EU considers that a part of the sectoral support should contribute significantly to enhancing such capacity in Senegal, and that its scientific institution should obtain sufficient financial means. In the forthcoming programming exercise, due to cover a five-year period, it is envisaged to contribute to the rehabilitation of the scientific exploration vessel, thus stimulating the support by the authorities of the scientific National institute CRODT, so that it can deliver proper scientific advice and cooperate at regional level for assessing shared stocks in the region. Over the past five years, the Ministry of Fisheries has considerably reduced financial support to the CRODT, thus the sectoral support should contribute to filling the gap. The EU strives to convince the Senegalese Ministry of Fishery of the importance to support scientific research and to dedicate sufficient means for it. The scientific observers’ working methods will also be subject of a specific attention.

The EU will continue providing assistance so that the tracking software for vessel locations in Senegal’s fishing zone via satellite (VMS) and the Electronic Reporting System (ERS), as part of control means of the Senegalese exclusive economic zone, are made operational.

As regards the incidental catches of sensitive species, specific procedures are in place for purse seine fisheries to minimise potential by-catches of sharks and mammals. Other fisheries, such as hake trawlers, present limited risk of unwanted catches of sensitive species.

The implementation of the ILO convention for the contracts of Senegalese seamen will be monitored through the joint committee meetings.

As regards the transparency in fishing operations by other fleets in the waters of Senegal, based on the commitment to promote responsible fisheries and on the cooperation principle on the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) of the Agreement, the EU will engage into cooperation and request clarification on other fleets’ activities. The EU continues monitoring the compliance of Senegal with its international obligations in the fight against IUU fishing.

As regards transparency of the activities under the sectoral support programme as well as communication actions on the impact of the programmes, the Commission will continue sharing the report of the Joint committee meetings with the Council and the Parliament.

Furthermore, the Commission will be reflecting on how to improve communication and increase the impact of the sectoral support under SFPAs.

The Commission will continue keeping the European Parliament informed of the implementation of the EU-Senegal SFPA.