



2019/0210(NLE)

18.2.2020

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania concerning the extension 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, expiring on 15 November 2019 (12928/2019 – C9-0175/2019 – 2019/0210(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Francisco Guerreiro

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The current Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (hereinafter ‘the Partnership Agreement’) was adopted on 30 November 2006¹.

The 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 aim is also to enhance cooperation between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of 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.

The latest Protocol² setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Partnership Agreement entered into application on 16 November 2015 and expired on 15 November 2019. This Protocol was amended twice (by the Commission Decision (EU) No 2017/451³ and by the Commission Decision (EU) No 2017/1373⁴).

Pending completion of the negotiations on the renewal of the Partnership Agreement and its Protocol, the Commission, on the basis of an authorisation from the Council, has negotiated, on behalf of the European Union, with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters extending by one year the Protocol to the Partnership Agreement. The Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters was signed on 13 November 2019.

The aim of the Exchange of Letters is to enable the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to continue working together to promote a sustainable fisheries policy, the sound exploitation of fisheries resources in Mauritanian waters and to allow EU vessels to fish in those waters.

The arrangements in force during the final year of the Protocol will be renewed under the same conditions for a maximum of one year.

The annual financial contribution has been set at EUR 61 625 000 for a maximum period of one year for the purposes of the extension, on the basis of:

- (a) an annual amount for access to fishery resources for the categories provided for in the Protocol, set at EUR 57 500 000 for the duration of the extension to the Protocol⁵;

¹ OJ L 343 of 8.12.2006, p.1.

² OJ L 315 of 01.12.2015, p.3.

³ OJ L 69 of 15.03.2017, p. 34.

⁴ OJ L 193 of 25.07.2017, p. 4.

⁵ Commission Decision (EU) 2017/451 of 14 March 2017 approved, on behalf of the European Union, certain amendments to the Protocol, in particular the introduction of a new fishing category for freezer trawlers targeting black hake, the applicable fishing conditions for this new category, and the increase in

- (b) The 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 objectives of Mauritania's national policy on the sustainable management of its continental and maritime fishery resources for the entire duration of the Protocol.

The Exchange of Letters relating to the extension also lays down a pro-rata reduction clause in the event that the negotiations to renew the Partnership Agreement and its Protocol result in these being signed and subsequently entering into force prior to the expiry of the annual extension to which the Exchange of Letters applies.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend approval of the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania concerning the extension 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, expiring on 15 November 2019.

the financial contribution for access. These changes were recorded in Annex 5 to the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of 15 and 16 November 2016.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania concerning the extension 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 and expiring on 15 November 2019
References	12928/2019 – C9-0175/2019 – 2019/0210(NLE)
Committee responsible	PECH
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 25.11.2019
Rapporteur Date appointed	Francisco Guerreiro 6.11.2019
Discussed in committee	22.1.2020
Date adopted	17.2.2020
Result of final vote	+: 26 –: 3 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Rasmus Andresen, Anna Bonfrisco, Olivier Chastel, Lefteris Christoforou, David Cormand, Paolo De Castro, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Alexandra Geese, Valerie Hayer, Monika Hohlmeier, Moritz Körner, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarida Marques, Silvia Modig, Siegfried Mureşan, Jan Olbrycht, Karlo Ressler, Bogdan Rzońca, Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Nils Torvalds, Nils Ušakovs, Angelika Winzig
Substitutes present for the final vote	Erik Bergkvist, Damian Boeselager, Jens Geier, Fabienne Keller, Aušra Maldeikienė
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Delara Burkhardt, Nicolaus Fest, Herve Juvin

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

26	+
ECR	Bogdan Rzońca
PPE	Lefteris Christoforou, Monika Hohlmeier, Janusz Lewandowski, Aušra Maldeikienė, Siegfried Mureşan, Jan Olbrycht, Karlo Ressler, Angelika Winzig
RENEW	Olivier Chastel, Valerie Hayer, Fabienne Keller, Moritz Körner, Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Nils Torvalds
S&D	Erik Bergkvist, Delara Burkhardt, Paolo De Castro, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Margarida Marques, Nils Ušakovs
VERTS/ALE	Rasmus Andresen, Damian Boeselager, David Cormand, Alexandra Geese

3	-
GUE/NGL	Silvia Modig
ID	Anna Bonfrisco, Herve Juvin

1	0
ID	Nicolaus Fest

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention