

## EU-Côte d'Ivoire fisheries agreement

The European Parliament's consent is required for the conclusion of a new protocol associated with the EU-Côte d'Ivoire fisheries agreement. The protocol sets out the fishing opportunities available to the EU fleet in Côte d'Ivoire waters, on the basis of the best available scientific advice, and specifies the EU financial contribution in exchange, including increased support for the local fisheries sector and the 'blue economy'. The consent vote and an accompanying motion for resolution will be on the plenary agenda during the February part-session.

### Background

Fisheries agreements with third countries allow EU vessels to fish for surplus stocks in their waters, in return for a financial contribution. The [first](#) fisheries agreement between the EU and Côte d'Ivoire, signed in 1990, was replaced in 2007 by the [current](#) agreement, and is accompanied by a protocol, renewed periodically, defining its implementation details. It is part of a network of [tuna agreements](#), allowing EU vessels to target highly migratory species in the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of partner countries. The EU-Côte d'Ivoire agreement is significant for the region and for [EU's tuna fleet](#), due to the importance of the port of [Abidjan](#) as one of the main landing ports and processing places in West Africa.

### European Commission proposal

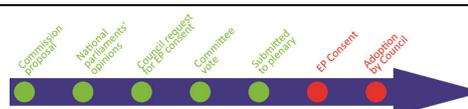
In view of the expiry of the [previous protocol](#) on 30 June 2018, the Commission and Côte d'Ivoire negotiated a [new protocol](#) to the current agreement, which provisionally entered into force on 1 August 2018. The new protocol is valid for six years (until 2024) and sets out the fishing opportunities for EU vessels in the EEZ of Côte d'Ivoire, namely for 28 freezer tuna seiners and 8 surface longliners ([allocated](#) to Spain, France and Portugal). The annual financial contribution paid by the EU amounts to €682 000. It covers not only financial compensation in return for the access to its waters, but also increased support for the development of the local fisheries and 'blue economy' sector (representing 57 % of the overall six-year budget as compared to 38 % in the previous protocol).



### European Parliament position

On 23 January 2018, the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) [recommended](#) that Parliament give its consent to the Council decision on the conclusion of the protocol, with both the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Development providing a favourable opinion. The PECH committee also adopted an accompanying [motion for a non-legislative resolution](#) for the Commission to take into account in implementing the current protocol and future negotiations. In particular, it sets out recommendations in order to promote genuine sustainable development in local fisheries, and to increase the added value that stays in the country as a result of the exploitation of its natural resources, and it requests that Parliament is fully informed about procedures related to the protocol. Both the recommendation on consent and the motion for a resolution are to be considered during the February plenary session.

Consent procedure: [2018/0267\(NLE\)](#); Committee responsible: PECH; Rapporteur: João Ferreira (GUE/NGL, Portugal).



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