

## EU fisheries agreement with Senegal

During the November I part-session, Parliament is expected to vote on giving its consent to the conclusion of a new protocol implementing the EU fisheries agreement with the Republic of Senegal. The protocol allows EU vessels to fish in Senegalese waters, while aiming to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fishery resources in the area, and to support Senegal's efforts to develop its fisheries sector.

### Background

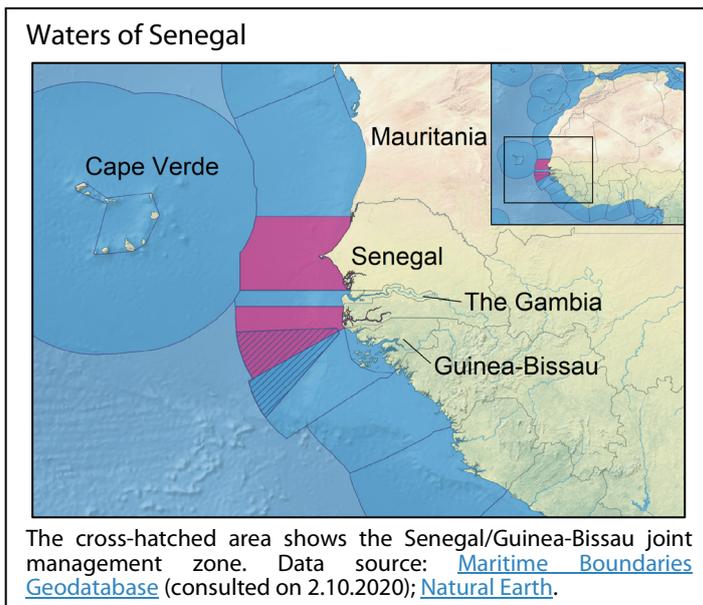
The first ever EU bilateral fisheries agreements was signed with Senegal, in [1979](#). It was a mixed [agreement](#), implemented until 2006 by a series of protocols giving EU vessels access to a wide range of fisheries resources. In 2014, it was reshaped into a tuna [agreement](#) with a demersal component (black hake), concluded for five years and tacitly renewable. This agreement, currently in force, was accompanied by a protocol that expired on 19 November 2019. The fisheries agreement with [Senegal](#) is a central piece of the network of EU [agreements](#) in West Africa, which also includes neighbouring Mauritania, Cape Verde, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau (see map).

### European Commission proposal

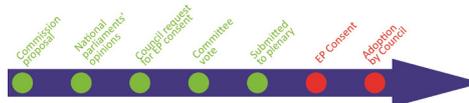
Following a favourable [evaluation study](#), a new five-year [protocol](#) was initialled on 19 July 2019, and has applied provisionally since its [signature](#) on 18 November 2019. The protocol provides [fishing opportunities](#) for up to 28 freezer tuna seiners, 10 pole-and-line vessels and 5 longliners from Spain, Portugal and France, corresponding to a reference tonnage of 10 000 tonnes of tuna per year. In addition, it authorises catches of 1 750 tonnes of black hake per year for two Spanish trawlers. The annual EU financial contribution is €1.7 million, of which €800 000 represents access rights to Senegal's waters. The remaining €900 000 provides for sectoral support for the implementation of Senegal's fisheries policy, for example improving fisheries control, developing fisheries research and data collection, and providing health certification for fisheries products. Additional fees payable by ship owners are estimated at around €1.35 million per year.

### European Parliament position

With favourable opinions from the Committees on Development and on Budgets, the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) [recommended](#), on 1 October 2020, that Parliament give its consent to the [conclusion](#) of the protocol, and adopted a motion for a non-legislative resolution. The [motion](#) recommends several priorities for sectoral support, such as modernising fisheries control by updating satellite tracking of fishing vessels and using electronic logbooks, supporting Senegal's fight against illegal fishing by improving vessel monitoring in the port of Dakar, and developing scientific capacity and data collection. The motion also calls for a global study of the impact of EU fisheries agreements, with a consistent approach towards all West African countries.



Consent procedure: [2019/0226\(NLE\)](#); Committee responsible: PECH; Rapporteur: Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew, Spain).



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