



**2019/0076(NLE)**

2.9.2019

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of The Gambia and of the Protocol on the implementation of that Partnership Agreement

(08974/2019 – C9-0106/2019 – 2019/0076(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Olivier Chastel

PA\_Leg\_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission negotiated on behalf of the European Union a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of The Gambia as well as a new Implementation Protocol to the Partnership Agreement. The Partnership Agreement and the Protocol were initialled at the end of those negotiations on 19 October 2018. The Partnership Agreement repeals the previous Agreement that was concluded between the Government of the Republic of The Gambia and the European Economic Community on fishing off the coast of The Gambia and that entered into force on 2 June 1987.

The main aim of the new Agreement is to provide an updated framework taking into account the priorities of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension, with a view to establishing a strategic partnership between the European Union and the Republic of The Gambia in the field of fisheries.

The objective of the Protocol is to enable the European Union and the Republic of The Gambia to work more closely together to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and a responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in Gambian waters. Moreover, the Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in Gambian waters taking into account available scientific assessments, in particular those of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), and in accordance with the best available scientific advice and the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), within the limits of the available surplus. The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories: 28 tuna seiners; 10 pole-and-line vessels; 3 trawlers (targeting black hake, a deep-sea demersal species).

The annual financial contribution is EUR 550 000, based on:

- an annual amount for access to the fisheries resources in the Gambian fishing zone of EUR 275 000 equivalent to a reference tonnage, for highly migratory species, of 3 300 tonnes per year;
- support for development of the sectoral fisheries policy of The Gambia, amounting to EUR 275 000 a year. This support meets the objectives of The Gambias national policy on the sustainable management of continental and maritime fishery resources.

The negotiation of a new Fisheries Partnership Agreement with The Gambia forms part of the Unions external action in relation to ACP countries and takes into account, in particular, Union objectives on respecting democratic principles and human rights. The new Agreement and the new Protocol covers a period of six years from the date of provisional application.

The Commission would be authorised to approve, on behalf of the Union, the amendments to the Protocol to be adopted by the Joint Committee set up under the Partnership Agreement.

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The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend that Parliament give its consent to the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of The Gambia and of the Protocol on the implementation of that

Partnership Agreement.