

**Question for written answer E-008856/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: New Fisheries Partnership Protocol between the EU and Mauritania

The Protocol to the EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement (2012-2014) was considered to be the most important agreement for the EU, in terms of volume and product diversity. Mauritania has a 754-kilometer-long Atlantic coastline, which is among the world's most plentiful ocean fishing grounds. Under that protocol, more than 100 European vessels from 11 EU Member States were allowed to fish in the Mauritania Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in return for financial assistance of EUR 70 million. This protocol applied until 15 December 2014.

In spite of several rounds of negotiations since 2014, Mauritania and the EU have not agreed on the term for renewal of the fisheries agreement. In May 2015, Mauritania and the EU decided to launch negotiations to renew the protocol. During the eighth round of this intensive dialogue, Mauritania and the EU expressed their determination to achieve a stable agreement.

In fact, the European fishing fleet cannot fish in Mauritanian waters until a new protocol has been signed. What is the state of the ongoing negotiations?

Is the Commission taking steps in this very important case, and when does it expect to agree on a new protocol?