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RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on the acceptance, on behalf of the European Union, of the amended Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (14993/2014 – C8-0027/2015 – 2014/0274(NLE))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Gabriel Mato
**Symbols for procedures**

* Consultation procedure
*** Consent procedure
***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)
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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the draft Council decision on the acceptance, on behalf of the European Union, of the amended Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
(14993/2014 – C8-0027/2015 – 2014/0274(NLE))

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the draft Council decision (14993/2014),

– having regard to the draft amended Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (15458/2014),

– having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 43(2) and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-0027/2015),

– having regard to Rule 99(1), first and third subparagraphs, Rule 99(2), and Rule 108(7) of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries (A8-0038/2015),

1. Gives its consent to conclusion of the amended Agreement;

2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.
SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO constitution, was approved by the FAO Conference in 1949 and entered into force in 1952. Amendments to this Agreement were approved in 1963, 1976 and 1997. The European Community acceded to the GFCM on 16 June 1998 through Decision 98/416/EC. Mediterranean and Black Sea EU Member States are also parties to this Agreement.

The GFCM is a so-called Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), with the aim of promoting the development, conservation, rational management and best utilisation of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

An amendment of the GFCM Agreement was launched in 2013 following a performance review finalised in 2011, which concluded that the Agreement should be amended to clarify the objectives and functions of the GFCM, and strengthen its efficiency. The amended Agreement was negotiated with the GFCM Contracting Parties. The Council authorised the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the Union on matters falling within the Union's competence. The negotiations were carried out by Member States and the Commission as per their respective areas of competence in accordance to the terms of the mandate.

The Contracting Parties to the GFCM endorsed the "Amended Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean" at the GFCM 38 Annual Session on 19-24 May 2014.

The amended Agreement revises the structure and content of the current one, so as to bring it in line with modern RFMO instruments. Main changes introduced are as follows:

- **A clearer explanation of the purpose of the GFCM Agreement**: the new Agreement sets a clear overall objective of biological, social, economic and environmental sustainability of living marine resources. It also introduces definitions of the terms that are necessary for the correct interpretation of the Agreement.

- **Better defined functions of the GFCM**, which include the promotion of common fishery management through multiannual management plans, the establishment of fisheries restricted areas, and the collection and dissemination of data. In this context, the new Agreement integrates core elements of the Common Fisheries Policy regarding: the objective of maximum sustainable yield, the ecosystem and precautionary approach, the reduction of discards, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

- **Sanctions**: the amendment includes provisions for the establishment of measures/sanctions to address non-compliance by Members/non-Members.

- **Dispute settlements**: the establishment of a well-defined dispute settlement mechanism in case disputes arise between Contracting Parties.
Position of the rapporteur

Considering the mutual interest in the development and the proper utilisation of the living marine resources in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and convinced that the conservation and sustainable use of the living marine resources in the Area of Application and the protection of the marine ecosystems in which those resources occur, plays a major role in the context of blue growth and sustainable development, the rapporteur recommends that Parliament approve the conclusion of the present modified Agreement.
RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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<th>Date adopted</th>
<th>24.2.2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result of final vote</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>+:</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>-:</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>0:</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members present for the final vote</td>
<td>Marco Affronte, Clara Eugenia Aguilera Garcí, Renata Briano, Alain Cadec, Richard Corbett, Diane Doddís, Linnéa Engströem, João Ferreira, Raymond Finch, Ian Hudghton, Carlos Iturgaiz, Werner Kuhn, António Marinho e Pinto, Gabriel Mato, Norica Nicolai, Liadh Ní Riada, Ulrike Rodust, Remo Sernagiotto, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Jarosław Wałęsa</td>
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<td>Substitutes present for the final vote</td>
<td>Sylvie Goddyn, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk</td>
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