

## EU fisheries agreement with Guinea-Bissau

During the June plenary part-session, Parliament is due to vote on giving its consent to the conclusion of a new protocol to the existing EU fisheries partnership agreement with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. Besides granting fishing opportunities to EU vessels in Guinea-Bissauan waters, the protocol aims to promote sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources and to support the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to develop its blue economy.

### Background

The fisheries agreement with Guinea-Bissau, one of the first ever concluded by the EU in [1980](#), was replaced in [2008](#) by the current agreement. It is a mixed agreement covering a wide range of species and includes a tuna component that makes it part of the network of [tuna agreements](#) in West Africa. A series of implementing protocols have provided EU access rights over time, except for the April 2012–October 2014 period, when the EU suspended the adoption of a new protocol after a military coup in Guinea-Bissau until constitutional order was restored. The 2014 protocol expired in November 2017.

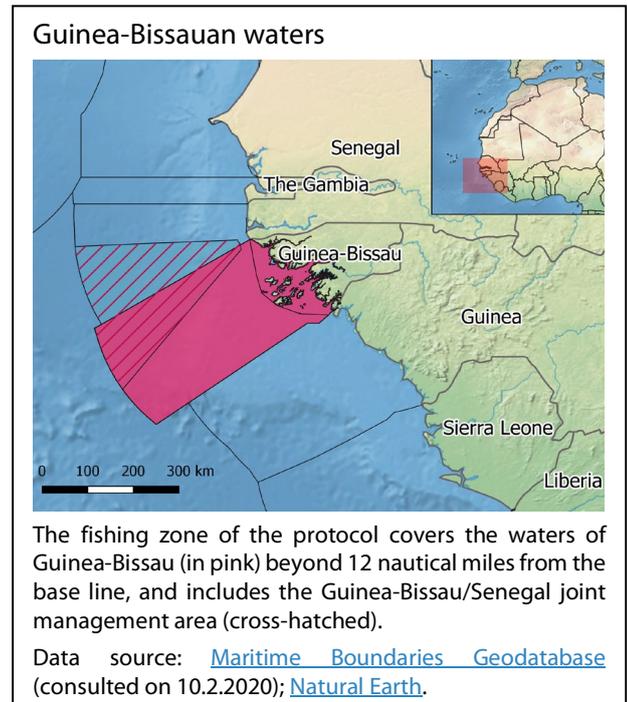
### European Commission proposal

Following a favourable [evaluation study](#), a new five-year [protocol](#) was initialled in November 2018 and has applied provisionally since its signature on 15 June 2019. The protocol provides [fishing opportunities](#) for freezer trawlers from Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy, fishing for shrimps, demersal fish and cephalopods. It also covers vessels from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Spain and Portugal fishing for small pelagic fish (which were not included in the previous protocol). These opportunities are based on fishing effort limits during the first two years, whereas from the third year, the protocol introduces a system of total allowable catches. Tuna opportunities are allocated to 28 seiners and longliners, and 13 pole-and-line vessels, from Spain, France and Portugal. The protocol defines an annual EU contribution of €15.6 million (increased from €9.2 million for the previous protocol), of which around three quarters (11.6 million) represents access rights. The remaining €4 million is dedicated to supporting Guinea-Bissau's fisheries sector, in particular the control of fishing activities, data collection and research, and small-scale fishing. Additionally, vessel owners are estimated to pay €4 million annually in fees for fishing authorisations.

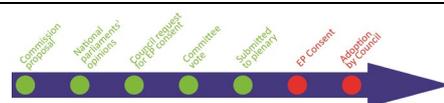
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### European Parliament position

On 21 January 2020, the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) recommended that Parliament give its consent to the conclusion of the protocol, with the Committees on Development and Budgets providing favourable opinions. This [recommendation](#) will now be considered in plenary. PECH also adopted a [motion](#) for a non-legislative resolution, setting out recommendations to the Commission, such as supporting the creation of landing and processing infrastructure, and improving coordination with EU development funding for Guinea-Bissau.



Consent: [2019/0090\(NLE\)](#); Committee responsible: PECH;  
Rapporteur: João Ferreira (GUE/NGL, Portugal).



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