

## Extension of the EU-Mauritania fisheries protocol

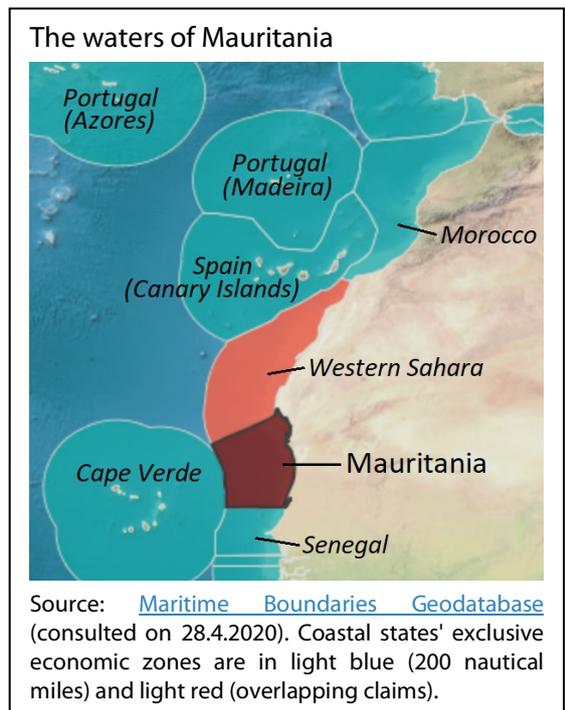
The fisheries agreement with Mauritania and its implementing protocol, the EU's most significant in economic terms by far, are currently being renegotiated. To allow continued EU fishing activities in Mauritanian waters after the expiry of the latest protocol, the European Commission has proposed to prolong it for a maximum of one year. Parliament is due to vote on giving its consent to this extension during the May plenary part-session.

### Background

The EU's fisheries relations with Mauritania date back more than 30 years, with a series of agreements concluded in [1987](#), [1996](#) and [2006](#). The latter, renewable for six-year periods, is now in force. It is one of the few mixed fisheries agreements covering a variety of demersal and pelagic species, including a tuna component. EU fishing vessels operate in Mauritanian waters under a protocol implementing the agreement, which defines the fishing opportunities available and the financial contribution paid by the EU. The latest [protocol](#), concluded in 2015 and modified by Commission [decision](#) in 2017, expired on 15 November 2019. An [evaluation study](#) recommended its renewal.

### European Commission proposal

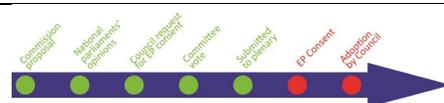
On 8 July 2019, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate a new fisheries agreement and protocol with Mauritania. To avoid the interruption of EU fishing activities, the two parties agreed to extend the protocol under the same conditions for up to one year, in line with the Council mandate. The extension, initialled on 4 September 2019, was [signed](#) on 13 November and has applied provisionally since 16 November. The Commission [proposal](#) on the conclusion of the extension agreement by exchange of letters between the EU and Mauritania, published on 1 October 2019, maintains the previous level of [fishing opportunities](#) and financial contribution. Several categories of resources are concerned: demersal species (categories 1-3), in practice shrimps, black hake and other demersal fish such as Atlantic pomfret, mainly fished by vessels from Spain; tuna (4-5), allocated to Spain and France; and small pelagic fish (6-7), such as sardine, mackerel and horse mackerel, allocated to the Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland, as well as Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom and France. The EU contribution is set at €61.625 million (for a full-year extension), most of which represents access rights (€57.5 million). The remaining €4.125 million provides support for the Mauritanian fisheries sector.



### European Parliament position

On 23 April 2020, the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) recommended that Parliament give consent to the prolongation of the protocol. The Committee on Budgets gave a favourable opinion. The recommendation will now be considered in plenary in May.

Consent: [2019/0210\(NLE\)](#); Committee responsible: PECH;  
Rapporteur: Clara Aguilera (S&D, Spain).



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PE 649.419 – May 2020

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