

EU fisheries agreement with Cape Verde

During the June part-session, Parliament is expected to vote on giving its consent to the conclusion of a new protocol implementing the EU fisheries agreement with the Republic of Cape Verde. The protocol allows EU vessels to fish for tunas in the waters of Cape Verde, and aims to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources, as well as the development of Cape Verde's blue economy.

Background

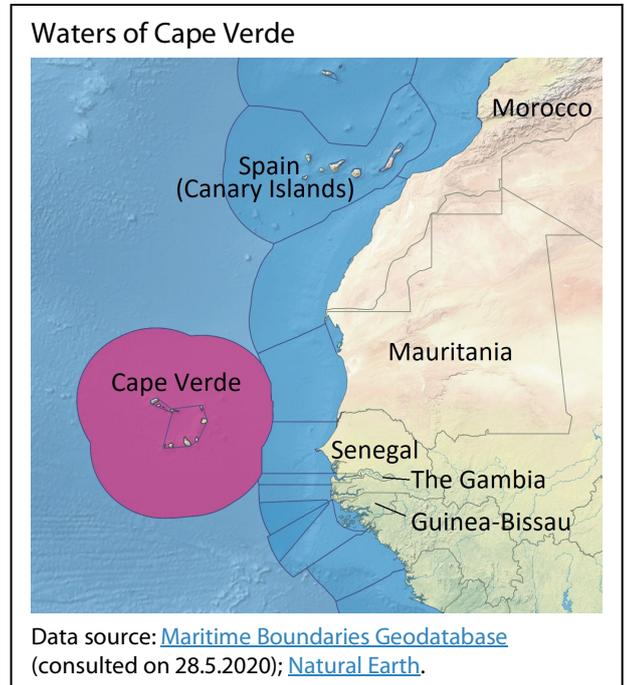
The fisheries agreement with Cape Verde is part of the network of EU [agreements](#) with west-African coastal states, among them Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau (See map). The first agreement, dating back to [1990](#), was replaced in [2007](#) by the current one, which was tacitly renewed every five years. The agreement provides the legal framework for EU vessels' access to highly migratory species (tuna and sharks) in Cape Verdean waters. Successive protocols defining the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution of the EU have rendered the agreement operational. The latest [2014-2018 protocol](#) expired on 22 December 2018. An [evaluation study](#) recommended its renewal.

European Commission proposal

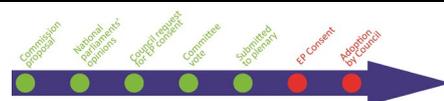
The new five-year protocol was initialled on 12 October 2018. On 14 March 2019, the Commission published its [proposal](#) for the conclusion of this protocol, which has applied provisionally since its signature on 20 May 2019. The [protocol](#) provides [fishing opportunities](#) for up to 28 purse seiners, 27 surface longliners and 14 pole-and-line vessels from Spain, Portugal and France. The reference tonnage is fixed at 8 000 tonnes per year (increased from 5 000 tonnes during the previous protocol, an amount which was repeatedly exceeded). The EU financial contribution is €750 000 per year, of which €400 000 represents access rights to the waters of Cape Verde. Sectoral support benefits from the remaining €350 000 for development of the local fisheries, in particular by strengthening fisheries control, scientific knowledge of resources and international cooperation, as well as the blue economy. Additional fishing authorisation fees payable by ship owners are estimated at €600 000 per year.

European Parliament position

With favourable opinions from the Committees on Development and Budgets, the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) recommended on 26 February 2020 that Parliament give its consent to the conclusion of the protocol. Parliament will consider this [recommendation](#) in plenary in June. PECH also adopted a [motion](#) for a non-legislative resolution, providing recommendations such as improving data collection and coordination with EU development funding, and ensuring that the reference tonnage is not exceeded. The motion criticises the persistent practice of provisionally applying international agreements before Parliament gives its consent.



Consent: [2019/0078\(NLE\)](#); Committee responsible: PECH;
Rapporteur: Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (EPP, Portugal).



EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Irina Popescu, Members' Research Service
PE 651.953 – June 2020

This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2020.

ep@ep.europa.eu (contact) <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)

