



Plenary sitting

A9-0008/2022

26.1.2022

RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (12617/2021 – C9-0420/2021 – 2021/0184(NLE))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Bert-Jan Ruissen

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 concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean
(12617/2021 – C9-0420/2021 – 2021/0184(NLE))**

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (12617/2021),
 - having regard to Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (12617/2021 ADD 1),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43 in conjunction with Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a) thereof (C9-0420/2021),
 - having regard to Rule 105(1) and (4), and Rule 114(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries (A9-0008/2022),
1. Gives its consent to the proposal for a Council decision;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and to the government of the Republic of Korea, as the depository for the Convention.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the North Pacific Ocean is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur.

This Convention was signed on 24 February 2012 and came into force on 19 July 2015. The European Union would become the Convention's ninth full member, joining the existing eight full members, which are Canada, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Taiwan, the United States of America, and Vanuatu.

Through its accession to the Convention, the Union aims to satisfy the interest from the Member States and the Union vessels concerned to gain access to the fisheries resources in the Convention's area of application. The EU fleet is already engaged in fishing operations further south in the neighbouring Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), notably the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO). Accession to the Convention on the North Pacific Ocean creates new opportunities for EU vessels. Accession to the Convention should promote consistency in the Union's conservation approach across the world's oceans and reinforce its commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources globally.

With a view to reaching the Convention's objectives, the Convention provides in particular for the following actions to be taken:

- promoting the optimum utilization and ensuring the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;
- adopting measures, based on the best scientific information available, to ensure that fisheries resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield;
- adopting and implementing measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries, and in accordance with the relevant rules of international law;
- assessing the impacts of fishing activities on species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks and adopting, where necessary, conservation and management measures for such species;
- protecting biodiversity in the marine environment;
- preventing or eliminating overfishing and excess fishing capacity;
- ensuring that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities are collected and shared in a timely and appropriate manner;
- ensuring that any expansion of fishing effort, development of new or exploratory fisheries, or change in the gear used for existing fisheries, does not proceed without prior assessment of the impacts of those fishing activities on the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;
- ensuring compliance with conservation and management measures and that sanctions applicable in respect of violations are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, to discourage violations wherever they occur and to deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from their illegal activities;
- minimising pollution and waste originating from fishing vessels, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, and impacts on other species and marine ecosystems.

At its sixth annual session from 23 to 25 February 2021, the NPFC accepted the Union's request to accede to the Convention. Note that the Union submitted requests to accede to this Convention in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), the body established by the Convention to manage the fisheries in the area covered by the Convention, was unable to reach consensus on the Union's 2018 and 2019 requests at its fourth and fifth annual sessions in 2018 and 2019 respectively. No annual session took place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the NPFC did not consider the Union's 2020 request.

By letter of 18 November 2021, the Council requested the European Parliament to give its consent to the draft Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to this act.

Regarding the budgetary implications, the Union's accession to the Convention will require the payment of a yearly financial contribution to the NPFC from budget line 08.05.02 ('Compulsory contributions to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other International Organisations'), estimated at roughly EUR 60 000 annually. The Union's contribution could increase, depending on its future fishing in the area of application. Voluntary contributions to the NPFC's budget under budget line 08.04.02 are also likely, particularly to promote scientific research. These contributions are estimated at about EUR 200 000 per year.

Position of the Rapporteur

The Rapporteur proposes that consent shall be granted to this draft Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean						
References	12617/2021 – C9-0420/2021 – 2021/0184(NLE)						
Date of consultation / request for consent	18.11.2021						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	PECH 22.11.2021						
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Bert-Jan Ruissen 30.11.2021						
Discussed in committee	9.12.2021						
Date adopted	25.1.2022						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>26</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	26	–:	0	0:	0
+:	26						
–:	0						
0:	0						
Members present for the final vote	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, François-Xavier Bellamy, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Isabel Carvalhais, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Rosanna Conte, Rosa D’Amato, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Søren Gade, Francisco Guerreiro, Niclas Herbst, Ladislav Ilčić, France Jamet, Pierre Karleskind, Predrag Fred Matić, Francisco José Millán Mon, Grace O’Sullivan, João Pimenta Lopes, Manuel Pizarro, Caroline Roose, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Theodoros Zagorakis						
Substitutes present for the final vote	Valentino Grant, Emma Wiesner						
Date tabled	26.1.2022						

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

26	+
ECR	Ladislav Ilčić, Bert-Jan Ruissen
ID	Rosanna Conte, Valentino Grant, France Jamet
PPE	François-Xavier Bellamy, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Niclas Herbst, Francisco José Millán Mon, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Theodoros Zagorakis
Renew	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Søren Gade, Pierre Karleskind, Emma Wiesner
S&D	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, Isabel Carvalhais, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Predrag Fred Matić, Manuel Pizarro
The Left	João Pimenta Lopes
Verts/ALE	Rosa D'Amato, Francisco Guerreiro, Grace O'Sullivan, Caroline Roose

0	-
-	-

0	0
-	-

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention