



2022/0249(NLE)

29.3.2023

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the Conclusion of a Protocol
implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European
Union and the Republic of Mauritius (2022-2026)
(COM(2022)0423 – C9-0001/2023 – 2022/0249(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Francisco Guerreiro

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Mauritius was signed on 21 December 2012 and entered into force on 28 January 2014 for a period of 6 years. Unless terminated by one of the parties, it is tacitly renewed for additional periods of 3 years and is therefore still in force.

A six-month extension of the existing Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement was agreed in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Mauritius, and was signed on 5 April 2022.

In the meantime and on the basis of the relevant negotiating directives¹, the Commission conducted negotiations with Mauritius on concluding a new Protocol. The new Protocol was initialled on 7 May 2022. It covers a period of 4 years from the date of provisional application laid down in Article 18 of the Protocol – the date on which it is signed by both parties.

The main aim of the new Protocol is to provide an updated framework that takes into account the priorities of the reformed common fisheries policy and its external dimension. This includes promoting a sustainable fisheries policy, in line with the objective of conserving marine biological resources recognised in EU law, a sound exploitation of fishery resources in Mauritian waters, and Mauritius' efforts to develop its sustainable ocean economy, in the interests of both parties. This cooperation will also help promote decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

The new Protocol provides fishing opportunities for EU vessels in Mauritian waters. This is based on the best available scientific advice, the recommendations made by the regional fisheries organisation that manages highly migratory fish stocks, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the results of an evaluation of the previous Protocol (2017-2021).

The Protocol provides for the following fishing opportunities:

- 40 tuna seiners;
- 45 surface longliners.

The annual financial contribution is EUR 725 000, based on:

- (a) a reference tonnage of 5 500 tonnes, for which an annual amount linked to access has been set at EUR 275 000;
- (b) support for developing Mauritius' sectoral fisheries policy, amounting to EUR 275 000 per year; and
- (c) support for developing the maritime policy and blue economy, amounting to EUR 175 000 per year.

This support meets the objectives of cooperation in the field of ocean economy, aquaculture,

¹ Adopted by the 3813th meeting of the Competitiveness Council (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) on 28.09.2021.

sustainable development of the oceans, maritime spatial planning, marine energy and marine environment, and development of the maritime policy and blue economy.

The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is established during the annual budgetary procedure, including for the reserve line for protocols not yet having entered into force at the beginning of the year². For recollection, with DEC23/2022, the budgetary authority already approved a transfer of EUR 725 000 from the reserve line to the operational line 08 05 01 to honour the 2022 financial obligations stemming from the signing of the Protocol.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend approval of the proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (2022-2026).

² In accordance with the Interinstitutional Agreement on cooperation in budgetary matters, point 20 (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020).

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Conclusion of a Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (2022-2026)						
References	12787/2022 – C9-0001/2023 – 2022/0249(NLE)						
Committee responsible	PECH						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 16.1.2023						
Rapporteur for the opinion Date appointed	Francisco Guerreiro 16.11.2022						
Discussed in committee	2.3.2023						
Date adopted	28.3.2023						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>31</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	+:	31	–:	2	0:	1
+:	31						
–:	2						
0:	1						
Members present for the final vote	Rasmus Andresen, Pietro Bartolo, Andor Deli, Pascal Durand, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Vlad Gheorghe, Valérie Hayer, Niclas Herbst, Adam Jarubas, Fabienne Keller, Joachim Kuhs, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Pierre Larroustou, Camilla Laureti, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarida Marques, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Andrey Novakov, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Karlo Ressler, Bogdan Rzońca, Eleni Stavrou, Nils Torvalds, Nils Ušakovs, Angelika Winzig						
Substitutes present for the final vote	Francisco Guerreiro, Monika Vana						
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Daniel Caspary, Daniel Freund, Isabel García Muñoz, Andreas Glück						

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

31	+
NI	Andor Deli
PPE	Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Daniel Caspary, José Manuel Fernandes, Niclas Herbst, Adam Jarubas, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Karlo Ressler, Eleni Stavrou, Angelika Winzig
Renew	Vlad Gheorghe, Andreas Glück, Valérie Hayer, Fabienne Keller, Nils Torvalds
S&D	Pietro Bartolo, Pascal Durand, Isabel García Muñoz, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Pierre Larroustou, Camilla Laureti, Margarida Marques, Victor Negrescu, Nils Ušakovs
The Left	Dimitrios Papadimoulis
Verts/ALE	Rasmus Andresen, Daniel Freund, Francisco Guerreiro, Monika Vana

2	-
ECR	Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Bogdan Rzońca

1	0
ID	Joachim Kuhs

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention