



2023/0117(NLE)

10.10.2023

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar and its implementing protocol (2023-2027)
(09525/2023 – C9-0223/2023 – 2023/0117(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Dimitrios Papadimoulis

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

A Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar was signed on 19 December 2007 and has been provisionally applied since 1 January 2007. It is tacitly renewable for periods of 6 years from its entry into force.

The last Implementing Protocol to this Partnership Agreement was signed on 23 December 2014 and applied from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2018, when it expired. On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives¹, the Commission conducted negotiations with Madagascar on concluding a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the European Union and Madagascar, including a new Implementing Protocol to that Agreement. The objective is to allow Union vessels to access Madagascar's fishing zone and to fish for tuna and associated species there, under the management mandate of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Following these negotiations, a new text of the Agreement and a new text of the Implementing Protocol were agreed on 28 October 2022 and signed on 30 June 2023.

The new Agreement repeals and replaces the existing Agreement. It covers a period of 4 years from the date of provisional application laid down in Article 19 thereof, namely 1 July 2023, until 30 June 2027.

The new Protocol has the same duration and provides for fishing opportunities for Union vessels (from Spain, Portugal, Italy and France) in Madagascar's waters, where applicable within the limits of the available surplus. It is based on the best available scientific advice and on recommendations made by the IOTC, which is the regional fisheries management organisation responsible for the management of highly migratory fish stocks, whose decisions are fully applicable, as stated in the Agreement (Article 4(3)).

The Protocol provides for the following fishing opportunities for highly migratory fish:

- 32 tuna seiners (16 from Spain, 15 from France and 1 from Italy),
- 13 surface longliners with a tonnage greater than 100 GT (7 from Spain, 4 from France and 2 from Portugal),
- 20 surface longliners with a tonnage less than or equal to 100 GT (all from France),
- and support vessels in accordance with the relevant IOTC resolutions.

The annual financial contribution is EUR 1 800 000, based on:

(a) a reference tonnage of 14 000 tonnes per year, for which an annual amount linked to access has been set at EUR 700 000;

(b) support for developing Madagascar's sectoral fisheries policy in order to help promote the sustainable development of its fisheries sector and its blue economy, amounting to EUR 1 100 000 per year.

¹ 3622nd Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) of 4 June 2018.
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/36284/st09680-en18.pdf>.

This support meets the objectives of cooperation in the fields of sustainable exploitation of fishery resources, aquaculture, sustainable development of the oceans, protection of the marine environment, and the 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.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend approval of the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar and its implementing protocol (2023-2027).

² In accordance with point 20 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on cooperation in budgetary matters (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28).

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar and the Implementing Protocol thereto (2023-2027)
References	09525/2023 – C9-0223/2023 – 2023/0117(NLE)
Committee responsible	PECH
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 10.7.2023
Rapporteur for the opinion Date appointed	Dimitrios Papadimoulis 17.7.2023
Discussed in committee	30.8.2023
Date adopted	9.10.2023
Result of final vote	+: 20 –: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Rasmus Andresen, David Cormand, Andor Deli, Pascal Durand, Alexandra Geese, Vlad Gheorghe, Niclas Herbst, Hervé Juvin, Joachim Kuhs, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos, Bogdan Rzońca, Nils Torvalds, Nils Ušakovs, Angelika Winzig
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Attila Ara-Kovács, Sunčana Glavak, Hannes Heide, Jarosław Kalinowski, Anne Sander, Sabine Verheyen

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

20	+
ECR	Bogdan Rzońca
NI	Andor Deli, Hervé Juvén
PPE	Sunčana Glavak, Niclas Herbst, Jarosław Kalinowski, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Anne Sander, Sabine Verheyen, Angelika Winzig
Renew	Vlad Gheorghe, Nils Torvalds
S&D	Attila Ara-Kovács, Pascal Durand, Hannes Heide, Nils Ušakovs
Verts/ALE	Rasmus Andresen, David Cormand, Alexandra Geese

1	-
NI	Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos

1	0
ID	Joachim Kuhs

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention