



**2023/0147(NLE)**

16.11.2023

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other (2023-2028)  
(COM(2023)251 – C9-0356/2023 – 2023/0147(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Niclas Herbst

PA\_Leg\_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement ('FPA') between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other, was signed on 28 April 2008, and entered into force on 30 April 2008 for a duration of six years. Unless terminated by one of the parties, it is to be tacitly renewed for additional periods of six years. Given that neither of the parties has notified their intention to terminate the FPA, it is still in force. The first Protocol on the implementation of the FPA expired on 15 September 2012. The second such Protocol expired on 15 September 2015.

On 26 January 2015, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for a new Protocol to the FPA between the European Union and the Republic of Kiribati<sup>1</sup>.

Based on the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with Kiribati with a view to concluding a new Protocol on behalf of the Union. Following these negotiations, the new Protocol was initialled by the negotiators on 18 December 2022. The new Protocol covers a period of 5 years from the date of provisional application laid down in Article 22 thereof, that date being the date on which the new Protocol is signed by both parties.

The objective of the Protocol is to implement the Fisheries Partnership Agreement by authorising EU vessel owners to apply for fishing licences to fish in Kiribati fishing zone. The new Protocol will provide a framework for the fishing activities of the EU fleet in that fishing area on the basis of the best available scientific advice and following the conservation and management measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. In addition, the new Protocol will enhance cooperation between the EU and Kiribati with a view to promoting the development of a sustainable fisheries policy in all its dimensions. The sectoral support available under the Protocol will help Kiribati with its national fisheries strategy, including the fight against IUU fishing, while promoting cooperation in the field of sustainable development of the oceans and decent working conditions for fishing activity along the lines of the ILO standards.

Concluding the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement means that the strategic fisheries partnership between the European Union and Kiribati can be continued and strengthened.

The conclusion of the Protocol will create fishing opportunities for EU vessels in Kiribati fishing zone. The new Protocol allows Union vessels to fish in Kiribati waters for tuna species and provides for the following fishing opportunities:

- 4 tuna purse seine vessels, with an access to Kiribati waters for 160 days per year;
- possible additional days per year can be made available to Union vessels, upon request.

The annual financial contribution from the Union is EUR 760 000, based on:

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other hand, 26.01.2015, 5059/15

- a) an annual amount for access to fishery resources for the categories provided for in the Protocol, set at EUR 360 000 for the duration of the new Protocol;
- b) support for the development of Kiribati's sectoral fisheries policy amounting to EUR 400 000 per year, for the duration of the new Protocol.

This support meets the objectives of Kiribati's policy on the sustainable management of their maritime fishery resources for the entire duration of the new Protocol.

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 year<sup>2</sup>.

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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, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community, on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other (2023-2028).

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

**ANNEX: LIST OF ENTITIES OR PERSONS  
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The following list is drawn up under the exclusive responsibility of the rapporteur. The rapporteur has received input from the following entities or persons in the preparation of the opinion, until the adoption thereof in committee:

<b>Entity and/or person</b>
Niclas Herbst declares that he did not receive input from any entity or person

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Title</b>	The Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Republic of Kiribati, on the other (2023-2028)
<b>References</b>	09862/2023 – C9-0356/2023 – 2023/0147(NLE)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	PECH
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	BUDG 19.10.2023
<b>Rapporteur for the opinion</b> Date appointed	Niclas Herbst 24.10.2023
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	7.11.2023
<b>Date adopted</b>	16.11.2023
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 23 –: 0 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Pietro Bartolo, Olivier Chastel, Andor Deli, Pascal Durand, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Alexandra Geese, Vlad Gheorghe, Valérie Hayer, Niclas Herbst, Hervé Juvin, Moritz Körner, Joachim Kuhs, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Bogdan Rzońca, Eleni Stavrou, Nils Ušakovs, Rainer Wieland
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Ana Collado Jiménez, Francisco Guerreiro
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Jonás Fernández, Wolfram Pirchner

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

23	+
ECR	Bogdan Rzońca
NI	Andor Deli, Hervé Juvin
PPE	Ana Collado Jiménez, Niclas Herbst, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Wolfram Pirchner, Eleni Stavrou, Rainer Wieland
Renew	Olivier Chastel, Vlad Gheorghe, Valérie Hayer, Moritz Körner
S&D	Pietro Bartolo, Pascal Durand, Jonás Fernández, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Nils Ušakovs
The Left	Dimitrios Papadimoulis
Verts/ALE	Alexandra Geese, Francisco Guerreiro

0	-

1	0
ID	Joachim Kuhs

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention