DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2020-2026) between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (00000/0000 – C9-0000/2020 – 2020/0002M(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Miguel Urbán Crespo
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Points out that EU fisheries policy must be consistent with the development objectives set out in Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and, in particular, the objectives referred to in Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda: to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

2. Stresses that access for EU vessels should be genuinely limited to the level of surplus fish stocks, in line with the principle of maximum sustainable yield; points out that fishing by EU vessels must not compromise food security for local populations;

3. Calls for concerted efforts to foster local economic development and strengthen coastal communities dependent on marine resources; stresses, in particular, that sectoral support should sustainably assist the development of the artisanal and local fisheries sector, and should benefit women and young people in particular;

4. Recalls the essential role of women in non-industrial fishing, particularly in the marketing and processing of products; recalls the importance of developing support in the form of training or small infrastructure for the cold chain;

5. Calls for transparency regarding the use of EU funds and publication of the list of funded projects;

6. Calls for more ambitious goals regarding the employment of Seychelles seamen for EU fishing vessels; reiterates the need to abide by International Labour Organisation (ILO) principles and, in particular, advocates the signing of ILO Convention No 188; considers the compensation of EUR 35 for each non-embarked seaman per day of fishing activities in the Seychelles fishing zone as insufficient.