

**Question for written answer E-000139/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Clara Aguilera (S&D)

Subject: EU fisheries agreement with Senegal

The coast of Senegal is one of the most important fishing grounds for the European fleet in the Atlantic. Allowing for a reference tonnage of 14 000 tonnes per year, the EU's fisheries protocol with Senegal offers fishing opportunities to 28 freezer tuna seiners, 10 pole-and-line vessels, 5 longliners and 2 hake trawlers.

The agreement is particularly important for the fleet of pole-and-line vessels, which have based their operations in Dakar for two decades. The licences for eight freezer tuna purse seiners from the Basque Country and Galicia were processed and paid for 2022. These seiners work with two support ships, three pole-and-line vessels from the Basque Country and Cantabria, and two Galician demersal hake trawlers based in the Canary Islands. In light of the numerous problems with Senegal fishing licences:

1. Can the Commission confirm that Senegal fishing licences are still valid for 2024 so that the fleet can continue to fish there?
2. When does the Commission intend to begin negotiations to renew the fisheries agreement protocol with Senegal, which is currently set to end on 17 November 2024?

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