












Procedure file

Basic information	
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2019/0173(NLE) Procedure completed
EU/São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2019-2024. Protocol	
See also 2007/0034(CNS)	
Subject 3.15.15.02 Fisheries agreements with African countries	
Geographical area Sao Tome and Principe	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Fisheries	 MELO Nuno	22/10/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 FERRANDINO Giuseppe	
		 BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun	
		 ROOSE Caroline	
		 TOMAŠIĆ Ruža	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Development	 ZIMNIOK Bernhard	14/11/2019
	 Budgets	 FERNANDES José Manuel	30/09/2019
Council of the European Union European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner VELLA Karmenu	

Key events			
30/08/2019	Preparatory document	COM(2019)0377	Summary
15/10/2019	Legislative proposal published	12199/2019	
13/01/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/2020	Vote in committee		
23/01/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0001/2020	
17/06/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/06/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0138/2020	Summary
10/07/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
10/07/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/0173(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
	See also 2007/0034(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p7
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/01195

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2019)0375	30/08/2019	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2019)0376	30/08/2019	EC	Summary
Preparatory document		COM(2019)0377	30/08/2019	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal		12199/2019	15/10/2019	CSL	
Document attached to the procedure		12202/2019	15/10/2019	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE643.145	11/11/2019	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE643.027	26/11/2019	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE644.723	20/12/2019	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0001/2020	23/01/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0138/2020	17/06/2020	EP	Summary

EU/São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2019-2024. Protocol

PURPOSE: signature, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community entered into force on 29 August 2011 and has since been renewed automatically. The previous Protocol to the Agreement, which entered into force on 23 May 2014, expired on 22 May 2018.

On 18 December 2017, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe with a view to concluding a new Protocol on the implementation of the Agreement. These negotiations were successfully concluded and the Protocol was initialled on 17 April 2019.

This new Protocol takes into account the results of an evaluation of the previous Protocol (2014-2018) and of a forward-looking assessment of whether a new Protocol should be concluded.

The evaluation report concluded that the EUs tuna fishing sector has a strong interest in fishing in São Tomé and Príncipe and that a renewal of the Protocol would help strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance and contribute to improved governance of the fisheries in the region.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council decide to authorise, on behalf of the Union, the signing of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community.

The objective of the Protocol is to enable the European Union and São Tomé and Príncipe to work more closely on promoting a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in São Tomé and Príncipe waters and to support efforts by São Tomé and Príncipe to develop its fisheries sector.

The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories: (a) 28 freezer tuna seiners; (b) 6 surface longliners.

The annual financial contribution from the European Union is EUR 840 000, based on:

- a reference tonnage of 8 000 tonnes per year, for which an amount linked to access has been set at EUR 400 000 per year for the entire duration of the Protocol;

- support for the development of São Tomé and Príncipes sectoral fisheries policy amounting to EUR 440 000 per year for the entire duration of the Protocol. This support meets the objectives of São Tomé and Príncipes national policy on the sustainable management of its continental and maritime fishery resources for the entire duration of the Protocol. The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is established during the annual budgetary procedure.

The Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of its provisional application, i.e. from the date of its signature.

EU/São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2019-2024. Protocol

PURPOSE: to allocate fishing opportunities under the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

BACKGROUND: this procedure is initiated in parallel with the procedures related to the Council Decision on the signature, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community and the Council Decision on its conclusion.

A new protocol was initialled on 17 April 2019. The Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of its provisional application, i.e. from the date of its signature. It provides the following fishing opportunities for EU vessels: (a) 28 freezer tuna seiners; (b) 6 surface longliners. The method for allocating these fishing opportunities among Member States should be established.

CONTENT: the draft Council Regulation provides that the fishing opportunities established under the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community shall be allocated among the Member States as follows:

(a) tuna seiners: Spain: [16] vessels; France: [12] vessels;

(b) surface longliners: Spain: [5] vessels; Portugal: [1] vessel.

The Protocol shall apply provisionally from the date of its signature. In order to ensure an expeditious start to fishing activities by Union vessels, this Regulation should therefore apply from the same date.

EU/São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2019-2024. Protocol

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community entered into force on 29 August 2011 and has since been renewed automatically. The previous Protocol to the Agreement, which entered into force on 23 May 2014, expired on 22 May 2018.

The evaluation report concluded that the Unions tuna fishing sector has a strong interest in fishing in São Tomé and Príncipe and that a renewal of the Protocol would help strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance and contribute to improved governance of the fisheries in the region.

The Commission conducted negotiations with the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe with a view to concluding a new Protocol to the Agreement. Following these negotiations, a new Protocol was initialled on 17 April 2019. The Protocol covers a period of five years from the date of its provisional application, i.e. from the date on which it is signed.

The negotiation of a new protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with São Tomé and Príncipe forms part of the Unions external action in relation to countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and takes into account, in particular, Union objectives on respecting democratic principles and human rights.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council decide to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the European Community.

Objectives of the proposal

The objective of the Protocol is to enable the Union and São Tomé and Príncipe to work more closely on promoting a sustainable fisheries policy and sound exploitation of fisheries resources in São Tomé and Príncipe waters and to support efforts by São Tomé and Príncipe to develop its fisheries sector.

Fishing opportunities

In accordance with the priorities of the Fisheries Policy reform, the new Protocol provides fishing opportunities for Union vessels in São Tomé and Príncipe waters, on the basis of the best available scientific advice and following the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories: (a) 28 freezer tuna seiners; (b) 6 surface longliners.

The annual financial contribution from the European Union is EUR 840 000, based on:

- a reference tonnage of 8 000 tonnes per year, for which an amount linked to access has been set at EUR 400 000 per year for the entire duration of the Protocol;
- support for the development of São Tomé and Príncipe's sectoral fisheries policy amounting to EUR 440 000 per year for the entire duration of the Protocol. This support meets the objectives of São Tomé and Príncipe's national policy on the sustainable management of its continental and maritime fishery resources for the entire duration of the Protocol. The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is established during the annual budgetary procedure.

The Commission is authorised to approve, on behalf of the Union, amendments to the Protocol to be adopted by the Joint Committee established under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

EU/São Tomé and Príncipe Fisheries Partnership Agreement 2019-2024. Protocol

The European Parliament adopted by 589 votes to 51, with 48 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community.

In line with the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Protocol.

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community entered into force on 29 August 2011 and has been tacitly renewed since then. The last Protocol to the Fisheries Agreement between the two Parties, which entered into force on 23 May 2014, expired on 22 May 2018.

The new Protocol:

- provides fishing opportunities for EU vessels in São Tomé and Príncipe waters, based on the best available scientific advice and in line with the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);
- shall allow the European Union and São Tomé and Príncipe to cooperate more closely to promote the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in São Tomé and Príncipe waters and to support São Tomé and Príncipe's efforts to develop its fisheries sector, in the interests of both parties.

The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities in the following categories: 28 freezer tuna seiners (16 for Spain and 12 for France) and six surface longliners (five for Spain and one licence for Portugal).

The Union's annual financial contribution amounts to EUR 840 000:

- a reference tonnage of 8 000 tonnes per year, for which an access related amount has been fixed at EUR 400 000 per year for the duration of the Protocol, and

- support for the development of São Tomé and Príncipe's sectoral fisheries policy, amounting to EUR 440 000 per year for the duration of the Protocol.