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<Commission>{BUDG}Committee on Budgets</Commission>

<RefProc>2022/0249</RefProc><RefTypeProc>(NLE)</RefTypeProc>

<Date>{29/03/2023}29.3.2023</Date>

<TitreType>OPINION</TitreType>

<CommissionResp>of the Committee on Budgets</CommissionResp>

<CommissionInt>for the Committee on Fisheries</CommissionInt>

<Titre>on the proposal for a Council decision on the Conclusion of a Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (2022-2026)</Titre>

<DocRef>(COM(2022)0423 – C9‑0001/2023 – 2022/0249(NLE))</DocRef>

Rapporteur for opinion: <Depute>Francisco Guerreiro</Depute>

PA\_Leg\_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Mauritius was signed on 21 December 2012 and entered into force on 28 January 2014 for a period of 6 years. Unless terminated by one of the parties, it is tacitly renewed for additional periods of 3 years and is therefore still in force.

A six-month extension of the existing Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement was agreed in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and Mauritius, and was signed on 5 April 2022.

In the meantime and on the basis of the relevant negotiating directives[[1]](#footnote-1), the Commission conducted negotiations with Mauritius on concluding a new Protocol. The new Protocol was initialled on 7 May 2022. It covers a period of 4 years from the date of provisional application laid down in Article 18 of the Protocol – the date on which it is signed by both parties.

The main aim of the new Protocol is to provide an updated framework that takes into account the priorities of the reformed common fisheries policy and its external dimension. This includes promoting a sustainable fisheries policy, in line with the objective of conserving marine biological resources recognised in EU law, a sound exploitation of fishery resources in Mauritian waters, and Mauritius’ efforts to develop its sustainable ocean economy, in the interests of both parties. This cooperation will also help promote decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

The new Protocol provides fishing opportunities for EU vessels in Mauritian waters. This is based on the best available scientific advice, the recommendations made by the regional fisheries organisation that manages highly migratory fish stocks, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the results of an evaluation of the previous Protocol (2017-2021).

The Protocol provides for the following fishing opportunities:

 40 tuna seiners;

 45 surface longliners.

The annual financial contribution is EUR 725 000, based on:

(a) a reference tonnage of 5 500 tonnes, for which an annual amount linked to access has been set at EUR 275 000;

(b) support for developing Mauritius’ sectoral fisheries policy, amounting to EUR 275 000 per year; and

(c) support for developing the maritime policy and blue economy, amounting to EUR 175 000 per year.

This support meets the objectives of cooperation in the field of ocean economy, aquaculture, sustainable development of the oceans, maritime spatial planning, marine energy and marine environment, and development of the maritime policy and 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 year[[2]](#footnote-2). For recollection, with DEC23/2022, the budgetary authority already approved a transfer of EUR 725 000 from the reserve line to the operational line 08 05 01 to honour the 2022 financial obligations stemming from the signing of the Protocol.

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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 of a Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (2022-2026).

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| **Title** | Conclusion of a Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (2022-2026) | | | |
| **References** | 12787/2022 – C9-0001/2023 – 2022/0249(NLE) | | | |
| **Committee responsible** | PECH |  |  |  |
| **Opinion by**         Date announced in plenary | BUDG  16.1.2023 | | | |
| **Rapporteur for the opinion**         Date appointed | Francisco Guerreiro  16.11.2022 | | | |
| **Discussed in committee** | 2.3.2023 |  |  |  |
| **Date adopted** | 28.3.2023 |  |  |  |
| **Result of final vote** | +:  –:  0: | 31  2  1 | | |
| **Members present for the final vote** | Rasmus Andresen, Pietro Bartolo, Andor Deli, Pascal Durand, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Vlad Gheorghe, Valérie Hayer, Niclas Herbst, Adam Jarubas, Fabienne Keller, Joachim Kuhs, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Pierre Larrouturou, Camilla Laureti, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarida Marques, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Andrey Novakov, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Karlo Ressler, Bogdan Rzońca, Eleni Stavrou, Nils Torvalds, Nils Ušakovs, Angelika Winzig | | | |
| **Substitutes present for the final vote** | Francisco Guerreiro, Monika Vana | | | |
| **Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote** | Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Daniel Caspary, Daniel Freund, Isabel García Muñoz, Andreas Glück | | | |

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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| 31 | + |
| NI | Andor Deli |
| PPE | Karolin Braunsberger-Reinhold, Daniel Caspary, José Manuel Fernandes, Niclas Herbst, Adam Jarubas, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Karlo Ressler, Eleni Stavrou, Angelika Winzig |
| Renew | Vlad Gheorghe, Andreas Glück, Valérie Hayer, Fabienne Keller, Nils Torvalds |
| S&D | Pietro Bartolo, Pascal Durand, Isabel García Muñoz, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Pierre Larrouturou, Camilla Laureti, Margarida Marques, Victor Negrescu, Nils Ušakovs |
| The Left | Dimitrios Papadimoulis |
| Verts/ALE | Rasmus Andresen, Daniel Freund, Francisco Guerreiro, Monika Vana |

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| ECR | Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Bogdan Rzońca |

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| ID | Joachim Kuhs |

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

1. Adopted by the 3813th meeting of the Competitiveness Council (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) on 28.09.2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In accordance with the Interinstitutional Agreement on cooperation in budgetary matters, point 20 (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)