



Brussels, 4.6.2019
COM(2019) 248 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Recommendation

for a Council decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

{SWD(2019) 195 final} - {SWD(2019) 196 final}

ANNEX

Negotiation directives

- The objective of the negotiations is the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in line with Regulation (EU) N° 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy and with the Council Conclusions of 19 March 2012 on the Commission Communication of 13 July 2011 on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy.
- The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement should therefore define the general framework, general principles and objectives that will form the basis for the partnership with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. It should contain a clause repealing the current Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania¹.
- To promote sustainable and responsible fishing while ensuring mutual benefits for the EU and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania through this new Agreement and Protocol, the Commission's negotiation objectives shall be based on the following:
 - Ensuring access to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's fishing zone and the necessary authorisations for vessels of the EU fleet to fish in that zone, thereby *inter alia* developing the network of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements available to EU operators in West-Africa;
 - Taking into account the best available scientific advice and relevant management plans adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO), in order to ensure the environmental sustainability of fishing activities and to promote ocean governance at the international scale. The fishing activities should be directed exclusively at available resources, taking into account the local fleet's fishing capacity, while paying special attention to the highly migratory nature of the stocks concerned.
 - Seeking an appropriate share of the surplus fisheries resources, fully commensurate with the EU fleets' interests, when they also interest other foreign fleets as well as the application of the same technical conditions to all foreign fleets;
 - Ensuring that access to fisheries is based on the historical and the expected future activity of the EU fleet in the region, in the light of the most updated and best available scientific assessments and taking into consideration the interests of EU outermost regions;
 - Establishing a dialogue to reinforce the sectoral policy with a view to encouraging the implementation of a responsible fisheries policy, in connection with the country's development objectives, in particular as regards the fisheries governance, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, control, monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities and provision of scientific advice; fostering economic activity and addressing *inter alia* the causes of irregular departures of migrants from Mauritania.

¹ OJ L 343 of 08.12.2006, p.4.

- Ensuring that the Protocol will contribute to the promotion of growth and decent work linked to maritime activity, taking into account relevant International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.
 - Including a clause on the consequences of violations of human rights and democratic principles;
- In particular, the protocol should define:
- the fishing opportunities, by category, to be granted to European Union vessels;
 - the financial compensation and the conditions for its payment; and
 - the mechanisms for implementing sectoral support.
- In case the negotiations for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania would take more time than expected, and in order to avoid a long period of interruption of fishing activities, the Commission should have the possibility to agree with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on a prolongation of the current Agreement and protocol for a maximum period of one year, while continuing to try to reach an agreement for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol in line with the above mentioned objectives.