



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 5 July 2016
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PECHE 263

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting for the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles for access of fishing vessels flying the flag of the Seychelles to the waters of Mayotte, under the jurisdiction of the European Union, Victoria, Seychelles, 28 June 2016

Delegations will find herewith the abovementioned document, as received from the Commission services.



AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
EUROPEAN UNION / REPUBLIC OF
SEYCHELLES FOR ACCESS OF FISHING VESSELS
FLYING THE FLAG OF THE SEYCHELLES TO
THE WATERS OF MAYOTTE, UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



=JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

Victoria Seychelles 28 June 2016

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Minutes

The Joint Committee established by Article 8 of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of the Seychelles on access for fishing vessels flying the flag of the Seychelles to waters and marine biological resources of Mayotte, met on 28 June 2016 in Victoria, the Seychelles.

The EU Delegation was led by Mr. Roberto Cesari, Head of Unit, Bilateral Relations and Fisheries Control in International Waters, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission and the Seychelles Delegation by Mr Philippe Michaud, the Chairman of the Board of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). The list of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The Seychelles Delegation welcomed the EU Delegation and commented that this Joint Committee was concrete evidence of the continuing strong relations that were shared in the matter of fisheries not only on the bilateral, but also sub-regional and regional basis. To underline the importance that the Agreements with the EU represented, the Seychelles was using this Agreement as a model in its negotiations with other partners in the region.

The EU shared these views and underlined the unique nature of this Agreement and welcomed the information that the Seychelles was using this Agreement as a model for its negotiations with other Coastal States in the region. The EU viewed the Seychelles as a leading partner in the region and the current relationship should be further developed.

The Agenda was adopted as Annex 2.



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2. License utilization in 2015 and issuing of licenses for 2016

The EU confirmed that there had been a full uptake of the fishing authorisations of 8 purse seine vessels and 2 supply vessels in 2015, as foreseen in the Agreement. The due payments had been received by the EU (France).

For 2016, the EU informed the Joint Committee that the 8 purse seine fishing authorisations and 2 supply vessels authorisations has been approved on 10 February 2016, and had been provided to the Seychelles. This represents a full uptake of the authorisations offered by the Agreement.

3. Catch situation in 2015 and fishing season 2016

The EU informed the Joint Committee that it had been informed, through the appropriate channels as foreseen in the Agreement, that the catches of Seychelles flagged vessels in EU waters (Mayotte) amounted to 45 metric tonnes. The Seychelles confirmed these figures

The EU noted the apparent low level of catches taken by the Seychelles vessels given that the opportunities foreseen in the Agreement had been fully utilised and also informed the Joint Committee that there had been no reported issues relating to compliance by the Seychelles fleet.

The EU informed the Joint Committee, that as yet there was no information available regarding the 2016 fishing year.

4. Consideration for increasing opportunity under the Agreement

The Seychelles introduced this point by noting that it had increased the capacity of its fleet recently, but still remained within the limits established by the IOTC in this regard. It was seeking consideration of an increase in the number of fishing authorisations currently provided by Chapter II of the Annex to the Agreement, to reflect the increase in the Seychelles' fleet capacity. Such an increase would not have a negative impact on the stock situation.

The EU recalled that the current authorisations foreseen in the Agreement had been established on the basis of the historic number of vessels. Furthermore, in order to have a discussion on the possible revision of the authorisations provided by the Agreement a mandate from the European Council would be necessary. It was also of the view that any change in the number of authorisation could possibly be considered by the EU at the time of the renegotiation of the Agreement.



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The Seychelles recognised that this should be addressed in the context of the negotiation of a new Agreement.

5. AOB

6. Date and Place of next Joint Committee Meeting

The next Joint Committee meeting would be held in conjunction with the next annual Joint Committee of the EU-Seychelles Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement, which should take place in Brussels, in early 2017.

Done at Victoria, Seychelles, 28 June 2016

Philippe Michaud
Chairman
Board of the Seychelles Fishing Authority

Roberto Cesari
Head of Unit
Bilateral Agreements and
Fisheries Control in International
Waters
DG MARE
European Commission



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Annex 1

List of Participants

The Republic of the Seychelles

Mr Philippe Michaud, Chairman, Board of the SFA
Mr Michael Nalletamby, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture,
Mr Roy Clarisse, Acting CEO SFA
Mr. Andrew Jean-Louis, SFA Board Member,
Mr. Peter Purvis, Ministry of Finance, Trade and Blue Economy,
Ms. Cindy Assan, SFA

Delegation of the European Union

Mr. Roberto Cesari, Head of Unit, Bilateral Relations and Fisheries Control in International Waters, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
Mr Alan Gray, Desk Officer, Bilateral Relations and Fisheries Control in International Waters, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
Mr Denis Reiss, Fisheries Attaché, EU Delegation for Mauritius, the Seychelles and Comoros

Mr. Ton IJlstra, Department for Nature and Biodiversity, The Netherlands
Mr. Patrick Buzaud, 1st Counsellor, Ambassade de France, Seychelles

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JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

Victoria Seychelles 28 June 2016

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. License utilization in 2015 and issuing licenses for 2016**
- 3. Catch situation in 2015 and fishing season 2016**
- 4. Consideration for increasing opportunity under the Agreement**
- 5. AOB**
- 6. Date and Place of next Joint Committee Meeting**