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European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the Republic of Mauritius and the European Union (Port Luis, 26 April 2017)

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Delegations will find in annex the above-mentioned document, as received from the European Commission services.



FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
EUROPEAN UNION / REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE FISHERIES  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (FPA) BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS AND THE  
EUROPEAN UNION

PORT LOUIS, 26 APRIL 2017

**1- Introduction and approval of the agenda.**

The 2017 Joint Committee of the 2014-2017 Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the European Union (the EU) took place in Port Louis on 26 April 2017.

The Mauritius delegation was led by Mrs Fong Weng Poorun Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, and the EU delegation was led by Mr E.Berck, Deputy Head of Unit Trade negotiations and sustainable fisheries agreements, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), European Commission. The list of participants is attached in Annex I. The agenda (Annex II) for the Joint Committee Meeting was adopted.

This Joint Committee aimed at a final examination of the implementation of the elapsed 2014-2017 Protocol and a follow up of the implementation of the sectoral support programme.

**2.- Uptake of fishing authorisations.**

For 2016, Mauritius issued authorisations for a total of 27 purse seiners: 14 from Spain; 12 from France, 1 from Italy (Utilisation rate  $27/41= 65.8\%$ ). Total fees amounted to EUR 100,170.

As for longliners, 17 authorisations were provided to French vessels, of which 2 over 100 GT (Utilisation rate  $17/45= 37.8\%$ ). Total fees amounted to EUR 32,550.

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In 2017, Mauritius has issued authorisations for 26 purse seiners: 14 from Spain; 12 from France; (Utilisation rate 26/41 = 35.5%) Total fees (calcul pro rata temporis 1<sup>st</sup> to 27 January) amount to EUR 7,135.44 .

One authorisation was requested by a French vessel longliner greater than 100 GT, and by an Italian purse seiner but due to the short timeframe they could not get licence delivered. Process is ongoing for refunding these 2 vessels for the paid advance fees.

### **3- Review of fishing activities of EU vessels in 2015 (final catch data)**

The Joint Committee noted that the final catch figures reported by the EU side in the Mauritius waters, for 2015, amounted to 635.419 tonnes, after validation by scientific institutes. One purse seiner had catches above the amount covered by the advance fee and paid an additional amount of EUR 2,484.20.

Mauritius indicated that logbooks had not been transmitted by a number of EU vessels, impairing verification of data on their side, and was not in position to validate these data. The EU side indicated that the procedures foreseen in the protocol had to be followed in case of non-compliances of vessels. The EU side expressed the need for timely interventions by Mauritian authorities to ensure prompt reporting and indicate any inconsistency in catch data. Mauritius confirmed that the procedures shall be strictly followed in the future.

### **4- Review of fishing activities of EU vessels in 2016-2017 (provisional catch data).**

EU reported provisional catches for 2016 amounted at 1873 tons. Those data will be consolidated and transmitted in accordance with the Protocol. The trend of increased catches was seen as very positive. Mauritius will provide the list of vessels having not submitted logbooks, as well number of fishing days based on VMS as an indicator of the fishing activity, counted in days in Mauritius waters. EU confirmed that these data would be treated as confidential in conformity with the Protocol. If necessary, Mauritius will get clearance from the Data Protection Office.

Other obligations of the Protocol relate to:

Seamen: The EU side reported that no Mauritian seamen had been embarked on EU vessels in 2016. Accordingly the compensation provisions of the Protocol relating to the non-embarkation of seamen apply and will be paid by ship owners.

Observers: The Mauritian side reported that in 2016, 3 observers have spent 214 days at sea undertaking duties on Mauritian purse seiners, none was embarked on EU vessels. Having a pool of 20 trained observers is the objective of Mauritius authorities. Training activities are on-going.

Implementation of an Electronic Catch Reporting System (ERS).

Technical specifications should be provided for Mauritius to be able to finalise the setting up of its new ERS system so that it is functional as soon as possible.

**4. Implementation of sectoral support actions of the 2015 program reviewed in January 2017.**

The reference document is the matrix program appended to the Joint Committee 9-10 March 2015) and referred to in the meeting in January 2017.

The 2015 budget approved in the matrix had been revised as presented in January 2017 to reallocate the money between foreseen activities, notably earmarked money for ERS. That later activity had to be postponed until new technical specifications are known.

The implementation follow up is included in the table in Annex III.

Eligibility for the payment of the last instalment

The payment of the last instalment will be triggered when payments of the programmed actions will reach 70% of the revised 2015 budget amount. It is foreseen that this level will be reached once the payment of the aquaculture cages has been made, expected by end of May 2017. Proofs are to be sent to DG MARE B3 by exchange of letters. This will allow to pay the last payment before 31 July 2017.

To follow the execution rate, the EU contribution is calculated in Mauritian rupees, using the exchange rate at the date this contribution is received by Mauritius. This exchange rate should be provided by the Accountant General.

The programme for 2016-2017 is approved as attached in Annex IV. Major actions are to be paid by end of June 2017.

**5. Any Other Business:**

**Transparency on fishing efforts deployed in Mauritius, by Mauritius fleet and other foreign non-EU fleets.**

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The Mauritian side will provide the EU side with the aggregated effort and catches of all fleets, by Flag State, other than those of the EU, operating in the Mauritian waters in 2016.

In conclusion, Mauritius noted the need for a platform for regular exchange of information to better monitor fishing activities, and requested consideration for capacity building and training of observers.

Done at Port Louis, on 27 April 2016.

P/b 

Mr Emmanuel BERCK  
Deputy Head of Unit,  
Trade negotiations and sustainable fisheries  
agreements DG MARE,  
European Commission

  
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Mrs K.O. FONG WENG POORUN  
Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry of  
Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries,  
and Shipping

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**List of participants:**

Mrs FONG WENG POORUN  
Senior Chief Executive  
Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources,  
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Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Republic of Mauritius to the European Union,

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Deputy Permanent Secretary,  
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Mr S. Gujadhur  
First Secretary  
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Mr. R. Sawmy  
First Secretary  
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Mrs P Rojoa  
Lead Analyst,  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

**European Union:**

**European Commission:**

Mr. Emmanuel Berck,  
Deputy Head of Unit,  
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DG MARE, European Commission

Mr. Denis Reiss,  
FisheriesAttaché  
EU Delegation  
Port Louis, Mauritius

Ms. Catherine Chapoux,  
Desk Officer,  
Bilateral Agreements and Fisheries Control in International Waters,  
DG MARE, European Commission



FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
EUROPEAN UNION / REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



**Annex II**

**Joint Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**Port Louis, Mauritius, 26 April 201**

- 1- Introduction and approval of the agenda.
- 2- Uptake of fishing authorisations
- 3- Review of fishing activities of EU vessels in 2015 (final catch data)
- 4- Review of fishing activities of EU vessels in 2016-2017 (provisional catch data) Review of shipowners obligations (seamen, observers). Implementation of an Electronic Catch Reporting System (ERS).
- 5- Implementation of Sectoral support Programme:
- 6- AOB Transparency on fishing efforts deployed in Mauritius, by Mauritian fleets and other foreign non EU fleets.

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**EU Contribution to the Mauritius Fisheries Development and Management 2015 Programme (€302,899,000 of 2nd Installment 2014, Budget: 101,228,000) (€185,756 = €466,200)**

Sub-Programme (42704 Planning and Management for the Fisheries Sector - Budget Items)	Priority Objectives	Major Services	Activity	Initial 2018 Budget (MRU)	Revised 2018 Budget (MRU)	Performance Indicators	Target	achievements	Payments from EU Budget (2018) (MRU)	Additional contribution from national budget (2018) (MRU)	Comments	Source of Verification
Budget line 221.20000 Fees to consultants	1. Ensure sustainable development and conservation of aquatic living resources	1.1 Implementation of National Plans of Action	1.1.1 Implementation of the National Plan of Action for Sharks - Training of statistical enumerators, vessels crews and users in applying the identification techniques of shark species	1,554,032	2,000,000	Preparation of a new catch recording sheet. Number of trained enumerators, vessels crew	30 trained enumerators crew	not achieved	0	0	Tender exercise has been launched to hire the services of a Consultant and is expected to be awarded shortly. Workshop is expected to be held in June 2017.	Consultant report
			1.1.2 Deployment of Observers on purse seiners and long liners according to IOTC requirements (at least 5 % of the number of operations/sets for each gear type)	2,256,048	1,000,000	Number of days of observation at sea of Purse seiners	210 days of observations at sea per year	210 days of observation at sea carried out in 2015, (and 214 days in 2016 - July achieved)	413,460			IOTC compliance report
Budget line 211.10000 Personnel Emoluments Allowances	2. Enhance the EEZ legal framework and institutional systems	2.1.3 Key jobs surveillance	2.1.3.1 Implementation of an Electronic catch Reporting System	1,215,001	200,000	Number of days of observation at sea of Long liners	120	not achieved	0	0	No Mauritian flagged Tuna Longline vessels	
			2.1.3.2 Monitoring of the tuna fishing activities in Mauritian waters	4,512,096	-	Setting up of ERS and training of officers	ERS in place by Dec 2015	not achieved	0			2 unsuccessful tenders. Project reported to be cancelled when EU 0 specifications
Budget line 221.20007 Fees for training	3. Contribute to the sustainability of marine resources through the development of participatory approaches	3.1 Capacity building	3.1.1 Technical training of Officers	670,814	2,000,000	Number of trainees	15 per year	Training workshop for 20 Officers of Competent Authority - Seaford completed 17 trainees successfully completed the training course in January 2017	1,131,664	0		Training institutions
			3.1.2 Training of skippers at the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy	762,016	750,000	Number of trained skippers	15					705 000 payment proof to be provided

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	562,812	1,500,000	Number of meetings	NA	interest	1,171,812	0	Meeting standards: 3 rounds of meetings under JOTC, 10th round under the full RFP under the EU agreement with Seychelles 2015 and 2017; 2nd Joint Committee with ECU, negotiation FPA 2013 and 2017; (III) Blue Week, Lisbon Portugal from 3-7 June 2015 (IV) Fully achieved.	List of meetings related to tuna under JOTC, 10th round under the full RFP under the EU agreement with Seychelles 2015 and 2017; 2nd Joint Committee with ECU, negotiation FPA 2013 and 2017; (III) Blue Week, Lisbon Portugal from 3-7 June 2015 (IV) Fully achieved.
3.1.3 Participation in workshops/meetings									
3.2 Development of Plans for the Fisheries and CAP-Regions									
3.2.1 Implementation of Strategic Fisheries Management Plans; Training and demonstration of new fishing techniques using traps and traps	902,419	1,400,000	Number of traps	Dec 2015	A 2nd cruise survey conducted in the Azores and St. Brandon Banks in September 2015.	1,360,000	0	report of the survey to be submitted	Chartering vessel contract implementation report
3.2.2 Management of Blue Bay Marine Parks	752,016	1,221,869	Number of buoys installed/maintained	100	Contract for the study of buoys awarded in December 2015. 115 Buoys installed in 2016. 100 buoys awaiting delivery. 10 for 10 buoys to be installed.	683,960	0	number of buoys installed in 2016, further payment awaiting pending delivery of buoys.	award of contract (procurement division)
3.2.3 Incentive measures for fishers/processors regarding their income and their marine aquaculture development	4,536,025	7,500,000	Installation of fish cages (12 m diameter)	10	All 10 cages have been installed in 2017 and allocated to the cooperative societies. Amount committed.	0	0	12 million total payment to be made by end of May (extra budget from M.J.S); proof of payment to be provided. Amount committed: 12 million (12 million)	contract and final invoices
3.2.4 Incentive measures for fishermen - 50% grant for the purchase of canoes	1,880,040	3,000,000	Number of canoes purchased	10 beneficiary / year	8 Fishers benefited for the 50% grant for the purchase of 10 canoes for 2014 on 20 April 2015. Payment to the Development Bank of Mauritius were made in 2 instalments respectively on the 20th of Dec 2014 and 16th of June 2015.	1,800,000	3,000,000	5 m earmarked for 2015 for 25 canoes.	Development Bank of Mauritius
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,388,887</b>	<b>18,071,889</b>				<b>6,586,866</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>		

Exchange rate INFOR EURO 1 Euro = 41,6442 (date of the 1st instalment May 2014)

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ANNEX IV

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EU contribution to the Mauritius Fisheries Development and Management Programme for 2016 (€ 302,500 2014-2016 Protocol)							
Sub-Head 23-201 Fisheries Development	Priority Objectives	Major Services	Activity	Budget UE/APP (MRU)	Performances indicators	Target	Source of Verification
Budget line 22120008 Fees to consultants			1.1.2 Implementation of the National Plan of Action for Sharks - Training of statistical enumerators, vessels crews and users in applying the identification techniques of shark species	500,000	Preparation of a new catch recording sheet. Number of trained enumerators, vessels crew Compliance with IOTC Resolution 15/05	1 Training workshop conducted	Consultant report
Budget line 21110004 Personnel Emoluments Allowances			1.1.3 Deployment of Observers on purse seiners and long liners according to IOTC requirements (at least 5 % of the number of operations/sets for each gear type)	750,000	Number of days of observation at sea of Purse seiners Compliance with IOTC Resolution 11/04	210 days of observation at sea per year	IOTC compliance report
Budget line 22180001 Subsistence allowance & 22180002 Air tickets			3.1.7 Participation in workshops/meetings	589,000	Number of meetings	NA	List of meetings attended

16

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Budget line 22900903 Other goods and services: Awareness campaign	3.2.3 Management of Blue Bay Marine Park - coral farming, delimitation of zones in marine park by demarcation buoys and mooring buoys	760,000	Number of buoys installed	100	
Budget line 22900020 Other goods and services: Requisites in connection with fishing activities	3.2.4 Pilot Incentives/Measures for lagoon/off-lagoon fishermen - 50% grant for the purchase of canoes	2,000,000	Delimitation of the park yes	30 fishermen . Report to be submitted by March 2017	MauBank
Budget line 22900020 Other goods and services: Requisites in connection with fishing activities	3.2.5 Pilot Incentives to fishers for purchase of semi- industrial fishing boats- 25 % grant with 4 M as max loan	6,616,000	No of fishermen who benefit from the scheme. Technical and economic performances monitored	2 boats purchased + technical economic Report to be submitted (MUS budget additional contribution foreseen)	MauBank
Total		11,465,000			
		total in euros			
		Utilisation rate of the sectoral support instalments			
		exchange rate approx 1 Eur 38 MRU			

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