



Council of the
European Union

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PECHE 191

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Minutes of the Joint Meeting 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 (Brussels, Belgium, 5 May 2017)

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

Brussels, Belgium, 5 May 2017

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, was held on 5 May 2017, in Brussels, Belgium.

The EU Delegation was led by Mr. Alan Gray, Desk Officer, Trade Negotiations and Sustainable fisheries Partnership Agreements, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission and the Seychelles Delegation by Mr Roy Clarisse, Special Advisor (Fisheries) to Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Member of the Board of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). The list of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

Both sides acknowledged that this specific access Agreement which was a positive counterpart to the pre-existing Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement which provided benefits to both the Seychelles and Mayotte

The EU commented that this unique Agreement 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. The EU also referred to the recent visit of the Director General of DG MARE, Mr Joao Aguilar Machado, to the Seychelles, who also strongly underlined the importance of the Seychelles as a key partner to the EU in the bilateral context, but also regionally, and that this close relationship should develop beyond fisheries alone.

The Agenda was adopted as Annex 2.

2. License utilization in 2016 and issuing of licenses for 2017

The EU confirmed that there had been a full uptake of the fishing authorisations of 8 purse seine vessels and 2 supply vessels in 2016, as foreseen in the Agreement. The due payments had been received by the EU (France).



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For 2017, the EU informed the Joint Committee that the 8 purse seine fishing authorisations and 2 supply vessels authorisations has been approved on 27 January 2017, and had been provided to the Seychelles. This represents a full uptake of the authorisations offered by the Agreement.

The Seychelles informed the Joint Committee that the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) had received a request from a shipowner to provide a formal permission for a vessel to commence its fishing activities in Mayotte, even though the SFA had already furnished the shipowner with the fishing authorisation provided by the EU authorities. This was apparently based on a request from the French authorities. Both Parties agreed that this was not required by the Agreement and its Annex, and that the vessel owner should be informed of this. The French authorities will also be informed of this.

Consequently to this discussion, the Seychelles referred to the procedure relating to the issuing of the authorisations to the vessel owners, in that the current practise was that the SFA would provide the authorisation directly to the vessel owner or agent on receipt from the EU. The Seychelles requested that the terms of the Agreement which provides for the authorisation to be provide by the EU to the vessel owner or its agent be respected. The EU agreed with the Seychelles that the correct procedure did not appear to be respected and would ensure that this would be respected in the future.

3. Catch situation in 2016 and fishing season 2017

The EU informed the Joint Committee that it had not apparently received any catch reports from Seychelles flagged as required by the provisions of the Chapter II Section 1 of the Annex to the Agreement. Noting that this could be due to a lack of activity in Mayotte waters by these vessels, the EU requested the Seychelles to look into this issue to either confirm the non- activity in Mayotte waters in 2016 of Seychelles flagged vessels. If it was subsequently found that some activity had taken place, this must be rapidly notified to the EU. Furthermore, the Seychelles should ensure that the authorised vessels fully respect the provisions of the Agreement, and notably those regarding catch reporting.

The Seychelles undertook to look into this issue and would revert back to the EU as soon as possible. It also underlined that it also considered that all the authorised vessels should fully respect the provisions of the Agreement and will ensure that this will be the case in the future.



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4. AOB

Consideration for increasing opportunity under the Agreement (Seychelles)

As in the Joint Committee of June 2016, the Seychelles noted 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 operating in Mayotte. 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.

The EU requested that if the Seychelles wished to have this discussed again in the future, a formal request for this to be placed on the agenda be made, so that adequate preparation for a substantial discussion could be foreseen.

Seychelles – Mauritius Fishing Agreement

The Seychelles informed the Joint Committee that it had recently concluded negotiations for a new Fishing Agreement with Mauritius. The Agreement with the EU regarding access to Mayotte had been used as the model for the negotiation, which was a clear indication of the importance and utility that this Agreement has for the Seychelles. Following this conclusion with Mauritius, the Seychelles intends to use this same model for further bilateral Agreements with its partners.

The EU Delegation welcomed this information and congratulated the Seychelles on its successful negotiation with Mauritius, with whom the EU had also recently concluded negotiations for a new Protocol to the existing Fisheries Partnership Agreement. As the Seychelles, the EU was of the view that this Agreement provided the good basis for a sound, transparent structure for the governance of bilateral fishing agreements.

5. 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 the Seychelles, in early 2018.



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Done at Brussels Belgium, 5 June 2017

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DG MARE
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Annex 1

List of Participants

Delegation of the European Union

Mr Alan Gray, Desk Officer, Trade Negotiations and Sustainable fisheries Partnership Agreements, DG MARE, European Commission
Mr Yann Davalo, Trade Negotiations and Sustainable fisheries Partnership Agreements, DG MARE, European Commission
Ms Christiane Laurent-Monpetit, Min. Des Outre-Mer, France,
Mr Gonzague De Moncuit, Ministre Développement Durable, France.
Mr. Antonio Lizcano, Fisheries Ministry, Spain

The Republic of the Seychelles

Mr Roy Clarisse, Special Adviser (Fisheries)
Mr Calvin Gerry, Deputy CEO, SFA.
Ms Nan Constant, Technical Assistance, SFA.



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Annex 2

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
Brussels Belgium, 5 May 2017
PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. License utilization in 2016 and issuing licenses for 2017**
- 3. Catch situation in 2016 and fishing season 2017**
- 4. AOB**
 - Seychelles - Consideration for increasing opportunity under the Agreement
 - Seychelles – Fishing Agreement with Mauritius
- 5. Date and Place of next Joint Committee Meeting**