Council of the European Union

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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	17 July 2018
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2018) 541 final - ANNEX 1
Subject:	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 Republic of The Gambia

Delegations will find attached document COM(2018) 541 final - ANNEX 1.

Encl.: COM(2018) 541 final - ANNEX 1

Brussels, 17.7.2018
COM(2018) 541 final

ANNEX 1

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 Republic of The Gambia

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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 Republic of The Gambia 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 Fisheries Partnership Agreement should therefore define the general framework, general principles and objectives that will form the basis for the partnership with The Gambia. It should contain a clause repealing the current Agreement between the Government of the Republic of The Gambia and the European Economic Community on fishing off the Gambia[1].

–   To promote sustainable and responsible fishing while ensuring mutual benefits for the EU and The Gambia through this new Agreement and protocol, the Commission's negotiation objectives shall be based on the following:

- Ensuring access to the Republic of The Gambia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the necessary authorisations for vessels of the EU fleet to fish in that EEZ, thereby *inter alia* developing the network of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements available to EU operators;

- 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 fisheries resources, fully commensurate with the EU fleets' interests, when they also interest other foreign fleets;

- Ensuring that access to fisheries is based on the activity of the EU fleet in the region, in the light of the most updated and best available scientific assessments;

- 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; and fostering economic activity contributing to inter alia addressing the causes of emigration from The Gambia.

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[1]   Council Regulation (EEC) No 1580/87 of 2 June 1987 (OJ L 146, 6.6.1987).

- 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.