



Council of the  
European Union

068749/EU XXVI. GP  
Eingelangt am 18/06/19

**Brussels, 18 June 2019**  
**(OR. en)**

**10454/19**  
**ADD 1**

**PECHE 298**

#### **COVER NOTE**

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From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	18 June 2019
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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No. Cion doc.:	COM(2019) 281 final
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 a protocol with the Republic of Seychelles

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Delegations will find attached document **COM(2019) 281 final**.

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Encl.: **COM(2019) 281 final**



Brussels, 18.6.2019  
COM(2019) 281 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 a protocol with the Republic of Seychelles**

{SWD(2019) 209 final} - {SWD(2019) 210 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 Republic of Seychelles 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 Republic of Seychelles. It should contain a clause repealing the current Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Seychelles<sup>1</sup>.
- To promote sustainable and responsible fishing while ensuring mutual benefits for the EU and the Republic of Seychelles through this new Agreement and Protocol, the Commission's negotiation objectives shall be based on the following:
  - Ensuring access to the Republic of Seychelles' 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 the Indian Ocean;
  - 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 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,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 290 of 20.10.2006, p. 2

control, monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities and provision of scientific advice; and fostering economic activity;

- Ensuring that the Protocol will contribute to the promotion of sustainable growth and decent work linked to fishing activities, taking into account relevant Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO);
- Including a clause on the consequences of violations of human rights and democratic principles.

– In particular, the protocol should define:

- the fishing opportunities to be granted to European Union vessels;
- the financial compensation and the conditions for its payment; and
- the mechanisms for implementing sectoral support.