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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	9 October 2026
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Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations for a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and its implementing protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar
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ANNEX

Negotiating directives

- The aim of the negotiations is to conclude a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement (SFPA) and its implementing protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Madagascar in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy.
- The SFPA and its implementing protocol should define the general framework for the fishing activities of EU vessels in Madagascar's fishing zone and for the EU's fisheries cooperation with Madagascar.
- To promote sustainable and responsible fishing while ensuring mutual benefits for the EU and Madagascar, the Commission's negotiating objectives should be based on the following aspects:
 - ensuring access to Madagascar's fishing zone and the necessary authorisations for EU vessels to fish in that zone, thereby *inter alia* developing the network of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements available to EU operators in the Indian Ocean;
 - fully implementing the relevant management plans adopted by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) on the basis of the best available scientific advice to ensure the environmental sustainability of fishing activities and promote ocean governance internationally. The fishing activities of EU vessels should exclusively

target the surplus of available resources, taking account of the local fleet's fishing capacity, while paying special attention to the highly migratory nature of the stocks concerned. In this respect, the available surplus in Madagascar's waters of highly migratory species covered by the fisheries partnership agreement is defined through the conservation and management measures in the Indian Ocean adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

- seeking an appropriate share of the fisheries resources, commensurate with the EU fleet's interests;
- obtaining a clause on non-discrimination between fleets and transparent information about fishing activities authorised in Madagascar to ensure that the same technical conditions are applied to all foreign fleets in Madagascar's fishing zone;
- ensuring that access to the fishing zone is based on the EU fleet's historical and expected future activity in the region, taking into consideration the most up-to-date and reliable scientific assessments available and the interests of the EU's outermost regions;
- establishing a dialogue to strengthen sectoral policy with a view, on the one hand, to encouraging the implementation of a responsible fisheries policy in line with Madagascar's development objectives, in particular as regards fisheries governance, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the control, monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities, the provision of scientific advice, and fishermen's social rights, and, on the other hand, to fostering economic activity;
- including a clause on the consequences of any infringements of human rights (including social rights) and democratic principles;
- ensuring that the protocol will contribute to promoting sustainable growth and decent work in relation to fishing activities, taking into account relevant International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.

– In particular, the protocol should establish:

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

- In addition, the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and its implementing protocol should be renegotiated, fully taking into account the importance of avoiding any interruption of fishing activities in Madagascar waters. Accordingly, the Commission should be open to concluding the negotiations whereby the Agreement and Protocol are aligned as regards their duration, termination, and suspension.