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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL empowering France to accede to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles - Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading (Strasbourg, 5 to 8 October 2026)

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of Article 294 of the TFEU and the Joint declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure¹, a number of informal contacts have taken place between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to reaching an agreement on this proposal at first reading.

¹ OJ C 145, 30.6.2007, p. 5.

In this context, the Chair of the Committee on Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), Pierfrancesco MARAN (S&D, IT), and the Chair of the Committee on Fisheries (PECH), Carmen CRESPO DÍAZ (EPP, ES), presented, respectively on behalf of ENVI and PECH, a compromise amendment (amendment number 6) to the abovementioned proposal for a Decision, for which Pierfrancesco MARAN and MéliSSa CAMARA (Greens/EFA, FR) had prepared a draft report.

This amendment had been agreed during the informal contacts referred to above. No other amendments were tableD.

II. VOTE

When it voted on 7 October 2026, the plenary adopted the compromise amendment (amendment number 6) to the abovementioned proposal for a Decision. No other amendments were adopted. The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto².

The Parliament's position reflects what had been previously agreed between the institutions. The Council should therefore be in a position to approve the Parliament's position.

The act would then be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the Parliament's position.

² The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in ***bold and italics***. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

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Empowering France to accede to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

European Parliament legislative resolution of 7 October 2026 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering France to accede to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (COM(2025)0689 – C10-0300/2025 – 2025/0349(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2025)0689),
- having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 43 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C10-0300/2025),
- having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 21 January 2026¹,
- having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the responsible committees under Rule 75(4) of its Rules of Procedure and the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 15 July 2026 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 60 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the joint deliberations of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety and the Committee on Fisheries under Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure,

¹ OJ C, C/2026/1967, 28.4.2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/1967/oj>.

- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety and the Committee on Fisheries (A10-0095/2026),
- 1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 7 October 2026 with a view to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2026/... of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering France to accede to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure²,

¹ Opinion of 21 January 2026 (OJ C, C/2026/1967, 28.4.2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/1967/oj>).

² Position of the European Parliament of 7 October 2026.

Whereas:

- (1) **On** 4 February 2025, France requested *an empowerment from the Union* to accede to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, done at Caracas on 1 December 1996 (the ‘Convention’), in order to strengthen its cooperation with the countries bordering its territories on the American continents in the area of the protection of marine turtle species occurring in seas adjacent to the American continents and the Caribbean.
- (2) **Certain** matters covered by the Convention fall within the Union's exclusive competence. In order to accede to the Convention, therefore, France is required to be empowered by the Union pursuant to Article 2(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) *for matters falling under the Union's exclusive competence. This Decision does not constitute an exercise of external competence by the Union as regards matters covered by the Convention that do not relate to an exclusive competence.*
- (3) The Convention is in line with the Union’s *policies in the fields of the protection of* marine biological resources *and the environment*, in particular *as regards* measures *for the protection and conservation of* sea turtles. *Since the Convention* is open for accession to States on the American continents and in the Caribbean ■ , it is appropriate for the Union to empower France to accede to *it*.

- (4) *French overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II to the TFEU, and their waters, are outside the territorial scope of the Treaties as regards, inter alia, the matters covered by the Convention for which the Union has exclusive competence. Therefore, this Decision is without prejudice to any rights or obligations of France that arise from the accession to the Convention in respect of those countries and territories, and their waters.*
- (5) *Certain French outermost regions that are situated within the area of application of the Convention, such as French Guiana, are exposed to illegal fishing activities which result in the incidental capture of large numbers of sea turtles. Cooperation with neighbouring countries is required in order to safeguard these protected species and to ensure the integrity of their habitats. Such cooperation would be facilitated by joining the Convention.*
- (6) France should **inform** the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of its accession to the Convention. France should **consult** the Commission **and relevant stakeholders, in particular local stakeholders**, on positions related to decisions, measures and recommendations taken under the Convention and regularly inform the Commission of the adoption of **such** decisions, measures and recommendations. **The European Parliament can invite the Commission to keep it informed of the decisions, measures and recommendations taken under the Convention. France should also make its annual report referred to in Article XI of the Convention available to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission,**

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

France is hereby empowered to accede to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, done at Caracas on 1 December 1996 (the ‘Convention’).

Article 2

France ***shall*** inform the European Parliament, the Council ***and the Commission*** of its accession to the Convention.

France shall consult the Commission ***and relevant stakeholders, in particular local stakeholders***, on positions related to decisions, measures and recommendations taken under the Convention and regularly inform the Commission of the adoption of ***such*** decisions, measures and recommendations.

France shall make its annual report referred to in Article XI of the Convention available to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to France.

Done at...,

For the European Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President
