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COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/1934

of 13 July 2026

on the signing and provisional application of the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2026-2030)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43, in conjunction with Article 218(5), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles [1] ('the Agreement') and the Protocol on the Implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2020-2026) [2] (the '2020 Protocol') were concluded by means of Council Decision (EU) 2020/2000 [3]. The 2020 Protocol expired on 23 February 2026.

(2) On 23 June 2025, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Republic of Seychelles ('Seychelles') for a new protocol on the implementation of the Agreement. The negotiations were successfully concluded with the initialling of the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2026-2030) (the 'Protocol').

(3) The objective of the Protocol is to enable Union vessels to fish in the Seychelles fishing zone and to enable the Union and Seychelles to work more closely together to develop a sustainable fisheries policy, to promote the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in the Seychelles fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean, and to contribute to the creation of decent working conditions in the fishing industry.

(4) Therefore, the Protocol should be signed.

(5) In view of the economic importance of Union fishing activity in the Seychelles fishing zone and the need to reduce as much as possible the duration of any interruption to that activity, the Protocol should be applied on a provisional basis, pending its entry into force.

(6) Since the Protocol covers more than one financial year, the related budgetary commitments can be broken down into annual instalments over the duration of the Protocol, in accordance with Article 112(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council [4].

(7) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council [5] and delivered an opinion on 3 July 2026 [6],

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[1] Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (OJ L 60, 28.2.2020, p. 5, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2020/272/oj).

[2] Protocol on the Implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2020-2026) (OJ L 60, 28.2.2020, p. 15, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2020/272/oj).

[3] Council Decision (EU) 2020/2000 of 27 November 2020 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles and its implementing protocol (2020-2026) (OJ L 413, 8.12.2020, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2020/2000/oj).

[4] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj).

[5] Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj).

[6] Not yet published in the Official Journal.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing of the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2026-2030) is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of that Protocol ([7]).

Article 2

The Protocol shall be applied on a provisional basis, in accordance with Article 19 of the Protocol, as from 27 July 2026, pending its entry into force.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 13 July 2026.

For the Council

The President

M. HEYDON

([7]) The text of the Protocol is published in OJ L, 2026/1935, 11.8.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_prot/2026/1935/oj.