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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Recommendation for a

COUNCIL DECISION

authorising the opening of the negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

{SWD(2026) 68 final}

ANNEX

Negotiating directives

- The objective of the negotiations is the signature and conclusion of a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the European Union and Mauritius and a Protocol for the implementation of that SFPA (Implementing Protocol) in accordance with Articles 28, 31 and 32 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy¹ 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 SFPA and its Implementing Protocol should set out the general framework of the fishing activities of Union vessels in the waters of Mauritius and the modalities of cooperation with Mauritius in the field of fisheries.
- To promote sustainable and responsible fishing while ensuring mutual benefits for the EU and Mauritius, the Commission's negotiating objectives should be based on the following elements:
 - Establishing a stable framework for bilateral cooperation in the field of sustainable fisheries;
 - Ensuring access to Mauritius' fishing zone and the necessary authorisations for vessels of the Union fleet to fish in that zone, thereby extending the network of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements available to Union operators in the Indian Ocean;
 - Taking due account of 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 international level. The fishing activities should exclusively target 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 Union fleets' interests, when they also interest other foreign fleets;
 - Seeking the application of the same technical conditions to all foreign fleets;
 - Ensuring that access to fisheries is based on both the historical and the expected future activity of the Union fleet in the region, in light of the latest and best available scientific assessments and in consideration of the interests of the Union's 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 Mauritius' development objectives, in particular as regards (i) fisheries governance, (ii) enforcement action and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, (iii) control, monitoring and surveillance of fishing

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22).

activities, (iv) the provision of scientific advice, (v) labour rights of fishers and (vi) fostering private investment and economic activity for the benefit of the EU fleet and the local population. These efforts will complement other Union instruments (including the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument);

- Ensuring that the Protocol will help promote sustainable growth and decent work linked to fishing activities, taking into account relevant ILO conventions. In particular, the social clause should indicate that the employment and working conditions of fishers on board EU vessels shall not contradict the instruments applicable to fishers of the ILO and the International Maritime Organisation, in particular the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998), as amended in 2022, and ILO Convention 188 on Work in Fishing;
- Promoting an appropriate involvement of stakeholders in the programming and implementation of activities deriving from the SFPA;
- Including a clause on the consequences of violations of human rights (including labour rights) and democratic principles;
- Including a clause on non-discrimination between the different fleets and transparency.

– In particular, the Protocol should set out:

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