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COM(2026) 195 final

2026/0109 (NLE)

Proposal for a

## **COUNCIL DECISION**

**on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, 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)**

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### 1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

#### • **Reasons for and objectives of the proposal**

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the European Union and Seychelles <sup>(1)</sup> entered into force on 24 February 2020 for a duration of six years and is tacitly renewable for additional periods of six years. The former six-year implementing Protocol expired on 23 February 2026. On the basis of the Council Decision of 23 June 2025 <sup>(2)</sup> authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union of a new Protocol implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Republic of Seychelles, and the negotiating directives contained therein, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Republic of Seychelles (hereinafter ‘Seychelles’). Following those negotiations, a Protocol was initialled by the negotiators on 1 April 2026. The new protocol would cover a period of four years from the date of provisional application set out in Article 19, i.e. the date of signature by the parties. The aim of this proposal is to authorise the signature of the Protocol and to decide on its provisional application.

#### • **Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area**

The main objective of the new Protocol is to provide an updated framework, taking into account the priorities of the common fisheries policy and its external dimension, with a view to pursuing and strengthening the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Seychelles in the fisheries sector. The Protocol grants fishing opportunities to EU vessels in Seychelles’ fishing zone, in accordance with the best available scientific advice and the resolutions and recommendations of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). The Commission based its position partly on the results of an evaluation of the previous (2020-2026) Protocol and a prospective assessment of the advisability of concluding a new Protocol. Those evaluations were carried out by external experts. The aim is also to strengthen cooperation between the European Union and Seychelles to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in Seychelles’ fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean, in the interests of the parties. The new protocol provides for fishing opportunities as follows:

- 30 tuna purse seine vessels;
- 8 surface longliners.

#### • **Consistency with other Union policies**

The negotiation of a new Protocol to implement the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Seychelles is part of the EU’s external action towards the countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and in particular with the Union objectives regarding the respect of democratic principles and human rights.

### 2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

#### • **Legal basis**

The legal basis is Article 43 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which establishes the common fisheries policy, and Article 218(5), which concerns the

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<sup>(1)</sup> 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](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2020/272/OJ)).

<sup>(2)</sup> Ares(2025)5139411.

signing of agreements between the Union and third countries and the possible provisional application of those agreements.

- **Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)**

The proposal falls within the exclusive competence of the European Union.

- **Proportionality**

The proposal is proportionate to the objective of establishing a legal, environmental, economic and social governance framework for fishing activities of EU vessels in third country waters, as laid down in Article 31 of the Regulation establishing the common fisheries policy. It complies with those provisions and with the provisions on financial assistance to third countries laid down in Article 32 of the same Regulation.

- **Choice of the instrument**

Not Applicable

### **3. RESULTS OF *EX POST* EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

- ***Ex post* evaluations/fitness checks of existing legislation**

In 2025, the Commission carried out an *ex post* evaluation of the former Protocol on the implementation of the SFPA with Seychelles and an *ex ante* evaluation of a possible renewal of the Protocol. The conclusions of the evaluation are set out in a separate staff working document <sup>(3)</sup>. The evaluation concluded that the Union fishing sectors are strongly interested in fishing in Seychelles and that the renewal of the Protocol is in the interest of both parties. Furthermore, the renewal of the Protocol would help strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance, and would contribute to improved governance of the fisheries in the region. For the Union, it is important to maintain an instrument allowing deep sectoral cooperation with Seychelles, which is a strategic player at subregional level due to the fishing area under its jurisdiction and an important ally in the framework of the IOTC. Furthermore, for the Union fleet this means maintaining access to an important fishing area for the deployment of harvesting strategies under a multiannual international legal framework. The importance of Seychelles in terms of processing tuna caught in the Indian Ocean and consequent exports of tuna products to the Union increases the relevance of the envisaged new Protocol, both for the Union fishing industry and for the partner country. For the Seychelles authorities, the aim is to continue relations with the Union with a view, inter alia, to strengthening ocean governance, thereby benefiting from dedicated sectoral support that provides multiannual funding opportunities.

- **Stakeholder consultations**

Member States, industry representatives, international civil society organisations, the fisheries administration and representatives of civil society in Seychelles were consulted as part of the assessment.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

The Commission called on an independent consultant for the *ex post* and *ex ante* evaluations under Article 31(10) of the Regulation establishing the common fisheries policy.

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<sup>(3)</sup> [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025SC0136](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025SC0136).

- **Impact assessment**

Not applicable

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

Not applicable

- **Fundamental rights**

A clause on the consequences of violations of human rights and democratic principles is included in the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

#### **4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

The annual financial contribution amounts to EUR 5 750 000, based on:

- a) an annual amount of EUR 2 750 000, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 55 000 tonnes per year; and
- b) a specific annual sectoral support amount of EUR 3 000 000 to help implement Seychelles' sectoral fisheries policy.

The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is set during the annual budgetary procedure, including for the reserve line for protocols not yet in force at the beginning of the year.

#### **5. OTHER ELEMENTS**

- **Implementation plans and monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements**

The monitoring arrangements are set out in the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its implementation Protocol.

- **Detailed explanation of the specific provisions of the proposal**

Not applicable

Proposal for a

## COUNCIL DECISION

### **on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, 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(2), 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<sup>(1)</sup> (the Agreement) was approved by means of Council Decision (EU) 2020/2000 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)<sup>(2)</sup>. The Protocol implementing the Agreement expired on 23 February 2026.
- (2) On 23 June 2025, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Republic of Seychelles for a new Protocol ('the Protocol') implementing the Agreement. The negotiations were successfully concluded and resulted in the initialling of the Protocol on 1 April 2026.
- (3) The objective of the Protocol is to enable European Union vessels to fish in 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 Seychelles' fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean, and to contribute to the creation of decent working conditions in the fishing industry.
- (4) The Protocol should therefore be signed.
- (5) In view of the economic importance of Union fishing activity in Seychelles' fishing zone and the need to reduce as much as possible, 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) As the Protocol covers more than one financial year, the related budgetary commitments may be broken down into annual instalments over the duration of the

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<sup>(1)</sup> Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles, OJ L 60, 28.2.2020, pp. 5-44 ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_internation/2020/272/OJ](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2020/272/OJ)

<sup>(2)</sup> 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 ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2020/2000/OJ>)

Protocol, in accordance with Article 112(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>(3)</sup>.

- (7) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>(4)</sup> and delivered an opinion on [date],

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) ('the Protocol') is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of the said Protocol.

The text of the Protocol is set out in the Annex.

#### *Article 2*

- (1) The Protocol shall be applied on a provisional basis, in accordance with Article 19 thereof, as from the date of its signing, pending its entry into force.
- (2) The date from which the Protocol is to be applied on a provisional basis shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

#### *Article 3*

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council  
The President*

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<sup>(3)</sup> 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 (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/OJ>

<sup>(4)</sup> 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, pp. 39-98, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/OJ>

## **LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL STATEMENT**

### **1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE**

#### **1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative**

Proposal for a Council Decision 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).

#### **1.2. Policy area(s) concerned**

08 — Agriculture and maritime policy

08 05 — Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

08 05 01 — Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities by Union fishing vessels in third country waters

#### **1.3. Objective(s)**

##### **1.3.1. *General objective(s)***

The negotiation and conclusion of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with third countries meets the general objective of allowing Union fishing vessels access to third country fishing grounds and developing a partnership with these countries with a view to strengthening the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources outside Union waters. The SFPAs also ensure consistency between the principles governing the Common Fisheries Policy and the commitments enshrined in other European policies such as sustainable exploitation of third-country resources, combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, integration of partner countries into the global economy, contribution to sustainable development in all its dimensions, as well as better governance of fisheries at political and financial level.

##### **1.3.2. *Specific objective(s)***

###### **Specific objective No 1**

Contribute to sustainable fisheries in waters outside the Union, maintain a European presence in distant water fisheries and protect the interests of the European fishing industry and consumers, by negotiating and concluding SFPAs with coastal states, in coherence with other European policies.

ABM/ABB activity concerned

08 05 01 — Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities by Union fishing vessels in third country waters

##### **1.3.3. *Expected result(s) and impact***

*Specify the effects which the proposal/initiative should have on the beneficiaries/groups targeted.*

The conclusion of the implementing Protocol allows the strategic partnership in the field of fisheries between the European Union and Seychelles to be continued and strengthened. The conclusion of the Protocol will create fishing opportunities for Union vessels in Seychelles' fishing zone.

The Protocol will also contribute to better management and conservation of fisheries resources, through financial support (sectoral support) for the implementation of programmes adopted at national level by the partner country, in particular the global plan for fisheries, the monitoring of and fight against illegal fishing, and support for the small-scale fishing sector.

Finally, the Protocol will contribute to the sustainable exploitation by Seychelles of its marine resources, as well as to the Seychelles' fisheries economy, by promoting growth linked to fisheries-related economic activities and the establishment of decent working conditions.

#### 1.3.4. *Indicators of performance*

*Specify the indicators for monitoring progress and achievements.*

Utilisation rate of fishing opportunities (annual percentage of fishing authorisations used in relation to the availability offered by the Protocol).

Catch data (collection and analysis) and commercial value of the agreement.

Creation of added value in the Union and the stabilisation of the Union market (aggregated with other SFPAs).

Contribution to improving research, monitoring and control of fishing activities by the partner country and the development of its fisheries sector, particularly small-scale fisheries.

#### 1.4. **The proposal/initiative relates to:**

- a new action**
- a new action following a pilot project/preparatory action** <sup>(1)</sup>
- the extension of an existing action**
- a merger or redirection of one or more actions towards another/a new action**

#### 1.5. **Grounds for the proposal/initiative**

##### 1.5.1. *Requirement(s) to be met in the short or long term including a detailed timeline for roll-out of the implementation of the initiative*

It is foreseen that the new implementing Protocol will apply provisionally from the date of signature in order to reduce the time during which fishing operations are not possible. The new Protocol will regulate the fishing activities of the Union fleet in Seychelles' fishing zone and will authorise the owners of Union vessels to apply for fishing authorisations to fish in that zone. In addition, the new Protocol will strengthen cooperation between the EU and Seychelles with a view to promoting the development of a sustainable fisheries policy in all its dimensions. It provides, in particular, for vessels to be monitored via VMS and for the electronic transmission of catch data. The sectoral support available under the Protocol will help Seychelles in the framework of its national fisheries strategy, including the fight against IUU fishing, while promoting decent working conditions during fishing activities. Implementation will start upon signature and for a duration of four years.

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<sup>(1)</sup> As referred to in Article 58(2), point (a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

- 1.5.2. *Added value of EU involvement (it may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities). For the purposes of this section 'added value of EU involvement' is the value resulting from EU action, that is additional to the value that would have been otherwise created by Member States alone.*

If the Union did not conclude a new Protocol, Union vessels would not be able to carry out their fishing activities, given that the current agreement includes a clause excluding fishing activities that do not take place within the framework defined by a Protocol to the agreement. The added value for the Union's distant water fleet is therefore clear. The Protocol also provides a framework for enhanced cooperation between the Union and Seychelles.

- 1.5.3. *Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past*

Analysis of historical catches in Seychelles' fishing zone and available scientific assessments and advice led the Parties to set fishing opportunities for 30 tuna purse seine vessels and 8 surface longliners. Sectoral support is important in order to take into account the priorities of the national strategy for fisheries and the exploitation of natural resources.

- 1.5.4. *Compatibility with the multiannual financial framework and possible synergies with other appropriate instruments*

The funds allocated as financial compensation for access to the SFPAs constitute fungible revenue to Seychelles' national budget. However, funds intended for sectoral support are allocated (generally by inclusion in the annual budget law) to the Ministry responsible for fisheries, as a condition for the conclusion and monitoring of SFPAs. These financial resources are compatible with other sources of funding from other providers of international funding for projects and/or programmes to be carried out at national level in the fisheries sector.

- 1.5.5. *Assessment of the different available financing options, including scope for redeployment*

[...]

- 1.6. **Duration of the proposal/initiative and of its financial impact**

**limited duration**

in effect from a period of four years from the date of the signature.

financial impact of four years from the date of the signature for commitment appropriations and four years and six months from the date of the signature for payment appropriations.

**unlimited duration**

Implementation with a start-up period from YYYY to YYYY,  
followed by full-scale operation.

- 1.7. **Method(s) of budget implementation planned<sup>(2)</sup>**

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<sup>(2)</sup> Details of budget implementation methods and references to the Financial Regulation may be found on the BUDGpedia site: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/corp/budget/financial-rules/budget-implementation/Pages/implementation-methods.aspx>.

- Direct management** by the Commission
  - by its departments, including by its staff in the Union delegations;
  - by the executive agencies
- Shared management** with the Member States
- Indirect management** by entrusting budget implementation tasks to:
  - third countries or the bodies they have designated;
  - international organisations and their agencies (to be specified);
  - the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund;
  - bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71 of the Financial Regulation;
  - public law bodies;
  - bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that they are provided with adequate financial guarantees;
  - bodies governed by the private law of a Member State that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that are provided with adequate financial guarantees;
  - bodies or persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the common foreign and security policy pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union, and identified in the relevant basic act
  - bodies established in a Member State, governed by the private law of a Member State or Union law and eligible to be entrusted, in accordance with sector-specific rules, with the implementation of Union funds or budgetary guarantees, to the extent that such bodies are controlled by public law bodies or by bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, and are provided with adequate financial guarantees in the form of joint and several liability by the controlling bodies or equivalent financial guarantees and which may be, for each action, limited to the maximum amount of the Union support.

## 2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

### 2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

The Commission (DG MARE, in collaboration with its Fisheries Attaché responsible for Seychelles, and in coordination with the relevant Commission departments) will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the Protocol as regards the use of fishing opportunities by operators, catch data and compliance with the conditions for sectoral support. In addition, the SFPA provides for at least one annual meeting of the Joint Committee during which the Commission and Seychelles will review the implementation of the Agreement and its Protocol and make any necessary adjustments to programming and, where appropriate, to the financial contribution.

### 2.2. Management and control system(s)

#### 2.2.1. *Justification of the budget implementation method(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed*

Payments are implemented in a decoupled manner for the access counterparty and the sectoral support counterparty.

Payments relating to access are made each year not later than the anniversary date of the Protocol, except in the first year, when payment is made within three months of the start of provisional application. Vessel access is controlled by the issuing of fishing authorisations.

Payment of the sectoral support will be made the first time within 30 days after the Joint Committee adopts the multiannual sectoral programme; for subsequent years, payment will be subject to the results achieved. The results achieved and the rate of implementation will be monitored in accordance with the implementing rules detailed in the Appendix 6 to the Annex to the Protocol and on the basis of reports or documentary evidence provided by the partner country and evaluations and verifications carried out by the Fisheries Attaché.

2.2.2. *Information concerning the risks identified and the internal control system(s) set up to mitigate them*

The risk identified is an under-utilisation of fishing opportunities by Union shipowners and under-utilisation or delays in the use of funds intended to finance the sectoral fisheries policy by Seychelles. Extensive dialogue is planned on the programming and implementation of the sectoral policy laid down in the Agreement and the Protocol. The joint monitoring of results referred to in the Appendix 6 to the Annex to the Protocol is also one of these means of control. In addition, the Agreement and the Protocol contain specific clauses for their suspension, on certain conditions and in given circumstances.

2.2.3. *Estimation and justification of the cost-effectiveness of the controls (ratio between the control costs and the value of the related funds managed), and assessment of the expected levels of risk of error (at payment & at closure)*

Payments of access costs under Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) are subject to checks to ensure that they comply with the provisions of international agreements. Controls relating to sectoral support aim to monitor the implementation of this support. Monitoring is carried out by Commission staff based in EU delegations and at meetings of the Joint Committee. A multi-annual programming matrix is used to assess progress. If progress is insufficient, payment of the next instalment is suspended or reduced. It is estimated that the overall cost of controls on all SFPAs is around 1.8% (of all contributions in 2018). SFPA control procedures are largely based on essential regulatory requirements. If no deficiencies are detected that are likely to have a significant impact on the legality and regularity of financial transactions, the controls are considered to be effective.

2.3. **Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities**

The Commission undertakes to establish a political dialogue and regular consultations with Seychelles in order to improve the management of the Agreement and the Protocol and to strengthen the Union's contribution to the sustainable management of resources. Any payment made by the Commission under a SFPA is subject to the Commission's normal budgetary and financial rules and procedures. In particular, the bank accounts of the third countries to which the amounts of the financial contribution are paid shall be fully identified. Article 4 of the Protocol stipulates that the financial contribution for access and that for developing the sector must be paid into the Seychelles' Government consolidated account with Treasury.

Provisions on the recovery of unduly paid sectoral support funds are included in the Appendix 6 to the Annex to the Protocol.

3. **ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE**

3.1. **Heading(s) of the multiannual financial framework and expenditure budget line(s) affected**

Existing budget lines

*In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.*

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff. <sup>(3)</sup>	from EFTA countries <sup>(4)</sup>	from candidate countries and potential candidates <sup>(5)</sup>	from other third countries	other assigned revenue
	08.05.01 Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities carried out by European Union fishing vessels in third country waters (SFPA)	Diff.	NO	NO	NO	NO

3.2. **Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations**

3.2.1. *Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations*

<sup>(3)</sup> Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.

<sup>(4)</sup> EFTA: European Free Trade Association.

<sup>(5)</sup> Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

- The proposal/initiative does not require the use of operational appropriations
- The proposal/initiative requires the use of operational appropriations, as explained below:

3.2.1.1. Appropriations from voted budget

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number 3	Natural resources and environment				
DG: MARE			Year 2026	Year 2027	Year 2028	Year 2029	TOTAL MFF 2026-2029
Operational appropriations							
Budget line 08.05.01	Commitments	(1a)	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
	Payments	(2a)	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes <sup>(6)</sup>							
TOTAL appropriations for DG MARE	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number					
			Year	Year	Year	Year	TOTAL MFF

<sup>(6)</sup> Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

			2026	2027	2028	2029	2026-2029
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
	Payments	(5)	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	5,750	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750
<b>TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 3</b> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
	Payments	=5+6	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000

EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year 2026	Year 2027	Year 2028	Year 2029	TOTAL MFF 2026-2029
<b>TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 3 to 7</b> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000
	Payments	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	23 000

3.2.2. *Estimated output funded from operational appropriations (not to be completed for decentralised agencies)*

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs		Year 2026	Year 2027	Year 2028	Year 2029	TOTAL
	OUTPUTS					

□	Type <sup>1</sup>	Average cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Total number	Total cost
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1 <sup>2</sup> ...												
- Access				2 750	2 750	2 750	2 750	2 750	2 750	2 750		11 000
- Sectoral				3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000		12 000
Subtotal for specific objective No 1												
<b>TOTALS</b>				5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750	5 750		23 000

### 3.2.3. *Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations*

The proposal/initiative does not require the use of appropriations of an administrative nature

The proposal/initiative requires the use of appropriations of an administrative nature, as explained below:

The appropriations required for human resources and other expenditure of an administrative nature will be met by appropriations from the DG that are already assigned to management of the action and/or have been redeployed within the DG, together, if necessary, with any additional allocation which may be granted to the managing DG under the annual allocation procedure and in the light of budgetary constraints.

### 3.2.4. *Estimated requirements of human resources*

The proposal/initiative does not require the use of human resources

The proposal/initiative requires the use of human resources, as explained below

### 3.2.5. *Overview of estimated impact on digital technology-related investments*

<sup>1</sup> Outputs are products and services to be supplied (e.g. number of student exchanges financed, number of km of roads built).

<sup>2</sup> As described in point 1.4.2 'Specific objective(s) ...'

The digital solutions used for the implementation of the Protocol already exist and are already being implemented for the previous Protocol and other fisheries agreements, as well as the implementation of Regulations 1224/2009 and 2403/2017. Investments in maintaining and improving the functionality of these digital tools are not specific to this protocol.

3.2.6. *Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework*

The proposal/initiative:

- can be fully financed through redeployment within the relevant heading of the multiannual financial framework (MFF).

The proposal/initiative is compatible the current multiannual financial framework. The use of the reserve line 30.020 200 is foreseen for the amounts mentioned in paragraph 3.2.5.

- requires use of the unallocated margin under the relevant heading of the MFF and/or use of the special instruments as defined in the MFF Regulation.
- requires a revision of the MFF.

3.2.7. *Third-party contributions*

The proposal/initiative:

- does not provide for co-financing by third parties
- provides for the co-financing by third parties estimated below:

Appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Total
Specify the co-financing body					
TOTAL appropriations co-financed					

3.3. **Estimated impact on revenue**

- The proposal/initiative has no financial impact on revenue.
- The proposal/initiative has the following financial impact:
  - on own resources
  - on other revenue
  - please indicate, if the revenue is assigned to expenditure lines

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Budget revenue line:	Appropriations available for the current financial year	Impact of the proposal/initiative <sup>(19)</sup>			
		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027
Article.....					

For assigned revenue, specify the budget expenditure line(s) affected.

[...]

Other remarks (e.g. method/formula used for calculating the impact on revenue or any other information).

4. **DIGITAL DIMENSIONS**

4.1. **Requirements of digital relevance**

If the policy initiative is assessed as having no requirement of digital relevance:

*Justification of why digital means cannot be used to enhance policy implementation and why the ‘digital by default’ principle is not applicable*

[...]

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<sup>(19)</sup> As regards traditional own resources (customs duties, sugar levies), the amounts indicated must be net amounts, i.e. gross amounts after deduction of 20% for collection costs.

Otherwise:

*High-level description of the requirements of digital relevance and related categories (data, process digitalisation & automation, digital solutions and/or digital public services)*

<b>Reference to the requirement</b>	<b>Requirement description</b>	<b>Use of digital technology</b>
Vessel position data (Article 12, Chapter IV and Appendix 4 of the Annex to the Protocol)	The vessel must be equipped with a vessel monitoring device and provide information identifying the vessel, its position, course and speed at regular intervals (VMS data).	VMS
Electronic fishing logbooks (Chapter IV and Appendix 4 of the Annex to the Protocol)	The master must record catch data on a daily basis in an electronic fishing logbook integrated into an electronic recording and reporting system (ERS).	ERS
Requests for authorisation of vessels (Chapter I of the Annex to the Protocol)	A database of authorisations is used to apply for the fishing authorisation from the partner country	LICENSE
Daily data transmission (Chapter IV and Appendix 4 of the Annex to the Protocol)	Electronic logbook data shall be transmitted automatically and on a daily basis to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag State.	ERS
Entries into and exits from the fishing zone, prior notifications and landing and transshipment declarations (Chapter IV, and Appendix 4 of the Annex to the Protocol)	Recording and transmission of each entry into and exit from the fishing zone via the ERS or other electronic means of communication.	ERS
Quarterly aggregated data (Chapter III of the Annex to the Protocol)	The flag State shall provide the European Commission with the aggregated quantities of catches and discards	ECR

	on a quarterly basis.	
Data protection (Article 11 and Appendix 7 of the Annex to the Protocol)	Data on fishing activities shall be treated in a confidential and secure manner.	

#### 4.2. **Data**

*High-level description of the data in scope*

##### **Alignment with the European Data Strategy**

*Explanation of how the requirement(s) are aligned with the European Data Strategy*

The key reporting requirements are based on digital technology, in particular through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS, which transmits vessel positions and identification) and the daily automatic transmission of electronic logbooks (ERS, which transmits its identified, localised and quantified catches). The quarterly and annual aggregated catch reports use an implicit numerical database for data aggregation (ECR database) fed by the flag Member States. Data protection and privacy:

- The agreement stresses the importance of protecting personal data. The specified measures shall ensure that data shared for fishing activities are processed safely, in compliance with GDPR requirements and in line with the strategy's objective of creating a secure and competitive digital economy.

Data sharing and transparency:

- The agreement encourages data sharing between Seychelles and the EU, promoting transparency and accountability in fishing activities. This reflects the objective of the European Data Strategy to improve access to and use of data, facilitating better decision-making and resource management.

##### **Alignment with the once-only principle**

*Explanation of how the once-only principle has been considered and how the possibility to reuse existing data has been explored*

Consideration of the Only Once Principle

- The 'only once' principle is not mentioned, but the information is provided by operators only once to the public authorities, in accordance with the flag State's principle of responsibility: it collects data from vessels and keeps it in VMS and ERS databases, which can be used for various parties, minimises redundancy and administrative burden, making it possible to use the same data to meet several reporting requirements to the different authorities.

*Explanation of how newly created data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable, and meets high-quality standards*

FAIR principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable  
Easy to find:

- The introduction of electronic reporting systems ensures that data is catalogued and searchable in a systematic manner, helping to make the data easy to find. Automated systems such as ERS allow for structured data archiving, which is consistent with the ease of finding FAIR principles.
- **Accessibility:** Data must be accessible to authorised entities through secure digital platforms, allowing real-time sharing and minimising unnecessary barriers. This controlled accessibility ensures that the right actors have access to information as necessary, in line with the FAIR principles.
- **Interoperability:** The use of the UN/FLUX format for data exchange improves interoperability. This standardisation allows different systems to share and use data smoothly, meeting one of the core objectives of the FAIR principles.
- **Reusability:**

- By specifying quality standards and secure data management in the Protocol, data are more likely to be of high quality and thus reusable for different objectives such as scientific research, policy development and fisheries management. Ensuring high data quality and compliance with international standards supports their re-use in various contexts, thus respecting the reusability aspect of the FAIR principles.

- In summary, the requirements of the Protocol are aligned with the European Data Strategy through enhanced data protection, increased sharing and implementation of digital systems. They consider the ‘only once’ principle by reducing redundant data submissions and align themselves with the FAIR principles to ensure that data is well managed for a wide range of purposes.

### **Data flows**

*High-level description of the data flows*

#### **4.3. Digital solutions**

*High-level description of digital solutions*

- The main digital solutions used are VMS, ERS, LICENCE and ECR, which are existing digital solutions for fisheries control put in place by the European Commission and used by the flag Member States.
- The data identified in 4.1 are usually exchanged by these digital solutions between a vessel (EU operator) and its flag State, and then between the EU and the partner country (notably between fisheries monitoring centres, which are state control bodies).
- Aggregated data are derived from operators’ declarations to the flag Member State, which reprocess them and feed into a European Commission database (Effort and Catch Reporting, ECR).
- Applications for fishing authorisations sent to the partner country involve data from a Fleet database (EU fishing register) and a LICENCE database, which are then transmitted by the European Commission to the partner country.

What measures are in place to protect digitally transmitted data? The Protocol specifies the need for secure and confidential treatment of data (Article 11 and Appendix 7) Is there a

plan to address failures in digital systems? Yes, provision is made for alternative communication methods in case of system failure to ensure continuity of reporting (Annex, Chapter IV).

*For each digital solution, explanation of how the digital solution complies with applicable digital policies and legislative enactments*

#### 4.4. **Interoperability assessment**

*High-level description of the digital public service(s) affected by the requirements*

The use of the UN/FLUX format for data exchange improves interoperability. This standardisation allows different systems to share and use data smoothly.

#### 4.5. **Measures to support digital implementation**

*High-level description of measures supporting digital implementation*

Implementation support is provided by the European Commission