



Brussels, 4.6.2019
SWD(2019) 195 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION

Accompanying the document

Reccomendation for a Council Decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

{COM(2019) 248 final} - {SWD(2019) 196 final}

The Council Conclusions on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy adopted on 19 March 2012, calls for an ex-post and ex-ante evaluation to be carried out by the Commission before negotiating a new protocol to the SFPA¹ This stems from Article 31(10) of the Basic CFP Regulation. Ex-ante and ex-post valuation studies aim to inform decision makers, before the negotiation directives by the Council are adopted. The fishing opportunities negotiated under the SFPAs are in line with the best available scientific advice, and there is no negative impact on fish stocks, neither competition with the local artisanal fishermen.

Under the existing Protocol between EU and Mauritania, that expires on 15 November 2019 and thus has to be renegotiated, the EU fleet is allowed to fish in Mauritanian waters for shrimp, demersal fish, tuna and some pelagic fish, up to a total of 287 050 tonnes a year. In addition to the fees paid by the European fleet (tonnage fees and para-fiscal taxes), the EU pays a financial contribution of (EUR) 61,625 million per year for this partnership, comprising (EUR) 59,125 million for access to waters and (EUR) 4,125 million for supporting local fishing in Mauritania and improving fisheries governance.

In accordance with the Better Regulation guidelines, the Staff Working Document (SWD) and its executive summary present the results of a retrospective (ex-post- evaluation carried out by an independent contractor and a forward-looking (ex-ante) evaluation in view of a possible renewal of the Protocol.

The contractor has fully addressed the evaluation questions and provided the Commission with concrete, reliable and credible results. Based on these observations, the contractor has drawn conclusions based on objective analysis and made specific and relevant recommendations for future negotiations on the new protocol between the EU and Mauritania.

Therefore, from all options considered the renewal of the Protocol at the end of its implementation period (15 November 2019) clearly appears as the preferred option. Any other option would not bring the same benefits, including the option of not renewing the Protocol. A future Protocol should retain a similar technical and financial approach with some technical adaptations aimed at improving the implementing conditions of its access and sectoral support components. The Protocol can be broadly described as a positive agreement addressing the identified needs of the different stakeholders.

To sum up, the Commission generally supports the conclusions of the assessment made by the contractor.

1 Doc. 7086/12 PECHE 66.