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SWD(2019) 385 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Accompanying the document

Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and a Protocol with the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland

{COM(2019) 491 final} - {SWD(2019) 386 final}

The Council conclusions on the external dimension of the CFP (19 March 2012) call for the Commission (pursuant to Article 31(10) of the CFP Regulation) to carry out *ex post* and *ex ante* evaluations before negotiating a new protocol to a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement (SFPA)¹. The aim is to inform decision-makers before the Council adopts negotiation directives. The fishing opportunities negotiated under SFPAs are in line with the best available scientific advice and there is no negative impact on fish stocks or competition with local artisanal or small-scale operators.

The current EU-Greenland protocol (which expires on 31 December 2020 and thus has to be renegotiated) allows the EU fleet to fish in Greenlandic waters for cod, pelagic and demersal redfish, Greenland halibut, shrimp, grenadier and capelin, for indicative annual fishing opportunities of 42 726 tonnes. In addition to fees paid by the EU fleet, the EU pays Greenland annual financial compensation of EUR 13 168 978 from the EU budget as annual compensation (calculated on the basis of reference prices for each species), including a financial reserve of EUR 1 700 000 for potential additional quantities. The EU budget also provides for an amount of EUR 2 931 999 to support Greenland's sectoral fisheries policy.

In accordance with the 'better regulation' guidelines, the staff working document and executive summary present the results of an *ex post* evaluation study by an independent contractor and an *ex ante* study in view of the possible renewal of the agreement and protocol.

The contractor fully addressed the evaluation questions and provided the Commission with concrete, reliable and credible results. It drew conclusions based on objective analysis and made specific and relevant recommendations for future negotiations. Consultations were held with all stakeholders involved.

The protocol can be broadly described as a win-win arrangement, in that it addresses the identified needs of the various stakeholders. Renewal of the agreement and the protocol (at the end of its implementation period, i.e. 31 December 2020) emerges clearly as the preferred option. No other option, including that of not renewing the protocol, would bring the same benefits. The future agreement should take the form of a reviewed and updated SFPA. The future protocol should be based on a similar technical and financial approach, with some technical adaptations to improve the conditions for implementing its access and sectoral support components.

¹ Doc. 7086/12 PECHE 66.