

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)

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2020/2000

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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)

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(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), and Article 218(7) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament<sup>(1)</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2020/272<sup>(2)</sup>, the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles ('the Partnership Agreement') and its implementing protocol ('the Protocol') were signed on 24 February 2020, subject to their conclusion at a later date.
- (2) The Partnership Agreement repeals the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Seychelles<sup>(3)</sup>, which entered into force on 2 November 2007 for a duration of six years and has been tacitly renewed and is therefore still in force.
- (3) The most recent protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Seychelles<sup>(4)</sup> was signed on 18 December 2013 and was provisionally applied from 18 January 2014. It expired on 17 January 2020.
- (4) The objective of the Partnership Agreement and the Protocol is to enable the Union and the Republic of Seychelles ('Seychelles') to work more closely together to further promote the development of a sustainable fisheries policy, and enable the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in the Seychelles fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean, while contributing to decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.
- (5) The Partnership Agreement and the Protocol should be approved.
- (6) Article 12 of the Partnership Agreement provides for the establishment of a Joint Committee to be responsible for monitoring the application of the Partnership Agreement and the Protocol. Furthermore, the Joint Committee can adopt certain

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects  
for the Council Decision (EU) 2020/2000. (See end of Document for details)

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modifications to the Protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such modifications, the Commission should be authorised, subject to specific substantive and procedural conditions, to approve them on behalf of the Union under a simplified procedure.

- (7) The Union's position on proposed modifications to the Protocol should be established by the Council. The proposed modifications should be approved unless a blocking minority of Member States in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Treaty on European Union objects to those modifications.
- (8) The Partnership Agreement and the Protocol should enter into force as soon as possible in view of the economic importance related to Union fishing activities in the Seychelles fishing zone and the need to reduce the interruption of such activities as much as possible,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles ('the Partnership Agreement') and the Protocol on the Implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2020-2026) ('the Protocol') are hereby approved on behalf of the Union<sup>(5)</sup>.

*Article 2*

The President of the Council shall, on behalf of the Union, give the notification provided for in Article 19 of the Partnership Agreement and the notification provided for in Article 17 of the Protocol.

*Article 3*

In accordance with the procedure and conditions laid down in the Annex to this Decision, the Commission is hereby authorised to approve, on behalf of the Union, modifications to the Protocol adopted by the Joint Committee established under Article 12 of the Partnership Agreement.

*Article 4*

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

Done at Brussels, 27 November 2020.

*For the Council*

*The President*

M. ROTH