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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2024) 285 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Implementing Protocol (2024-2029) to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

Delegations will find attached document COM(2024) 285 final.

Encl.: COM(2024) 285 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 9.7.2024
COM(2024) 285 final

2024/0159 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

**on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Implementing Protocol
(2024-2029) to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community
and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

• Reasons for and objectives of the proposal

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau entered into force on 15 April 2008. It is tacitly renewable and is therefore still in force. The previous 5-year Implementing Protocol to the Agreement entered into force on 15 June 2019 and expired on 14 June 2024.

On 14 February 2024, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for a new Protocol ('the new Protocol') to the FPA.

On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives¹, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on concluding a new Implementing Protocol to the Agreement. The objective is to allow Union vessels to access the fishing zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and to fish for demersal species (crustaceans, cephalopods and fish), small pelagic species, and tuna and associated species there. Following these negotiations, a new text of the Implementing Protocol was initialled on 16 May 2024. The new Protocol covers a period of 5 years from the date of provisional application laid down in Article 19.

The purpose of the new Protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing zones located in the waters of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, in accordance with scientific advice and the recommendations of the Joint Scientific Committee and the relevant regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), in particular the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The new Protocol provides for the following fishing opportunities:

- freezer fin-fish and cephalopod trawlers: 3 500 GRT per year;
- freezer shrimp trawlers: 3 700 GRT per year;
- small-pelagic trawlers: 0 tonnes per year;
- 28 freezer tuna seiners and longliners;
- 13 pole-and-line tuna vessels;

in addition to support vessels in accordance with the relevant ICCAT resolutions.

The fishing opportunities for small pelagic species are set at 0 tonnes because of the reservations expressed on the state of the stocks and the low uptake of these fishing opportunities in the previous Protocol.

Another objective is to enhance cooperation between the Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau by implementing the partnership framework for the Agreement in order to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and the responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the waters of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, in the interest of both Parties.

¹ Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of an Implementing Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (ref. 6007/24 + ADD 1, approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 14 February 2024): <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6641-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

The purpose of this proposal is to obtain the Council's authorisation for the conclusion of the new Protocol, in accordance with Article 218(6) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

- **Consistency with existing provisions in the policy area**

The main aim of the new Protocol to the Agreement is to provide an updated framework that takes into account the priorities of the common fisheries policy (CFP) and the external dimension. This will help maintain and strengthen the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

The new Protocol provides for fishing opportunities for Union vessels. It is based on the best available scientific advice and on the recommendations made by the Joint Scientific Committee, the ICCAT and the CECAF. The management measures adopted by the ICCAT are also included in the relevant CFP provisions applicable to the ICCAT area, in particular the Annual Fishing Opportunities Regulation².

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

The negotiation of a new Protocol to the Agreement forms part of the Union's external action in relation to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and takes into account, in particular, the Union's objectives on respecting democratic principles and human rights.

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

- **Legal basis**

The legal basis is Article 43(2) TFEU, which establishes the common fisheries policy, and Article 218(6) TFEU, which provides that the Council, on a proposal by the negotiator, is to adopt a decision concluding an agreement between the Union and third countries.

Article 17(1) TFEU lays down that, with the exception of the common foreign and security policy, the Commission is to ensure the Union's external representation. Consequently, the Commission alone is competent to notify the Republic of Guinea-Bissau of the Union's consent to be bound by the Protocol.

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

The proposal falls within the exclusive competence of the European Union pursuant to Article 3(1)(d) TFEU. The subsidiarity principle therefore does not apply.

- **Proportionality**

The proposal is proportionate to the objective of establishing a legal, environmental, economic and social governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union vessels in third-country waters, as set out in Article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 establishing the common fisheries policy. It complies with those provisions and with those on financial assistance to third countries laid down in Article 32 of that Regulation.

² OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 1. See Section 3 and Annex ID.

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

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

In 2023, the Commission contracted an independent consultant to carry out an *ex post* and *ex ante* evaluation study³. On the basis of that evaluation study, the Commission carried out an *ex post* evaluation of the current Implementing Protocol and an *ex ante* evaluation of possible options for the future. The conclusions of the *ex post* and *ex ante* evaluations are set out in a Commission Staff Working Document (SWD)⁴.

In the *ex post* evaluation contained in the SWD, the Commission concludes that, overall, the current Implementing Protocol was effective in achieving its objectives, with some areas for improvement. In this respect, the Union fleet remains interested in accessing the fishing areas of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for the deployment of harvesting strategies under a multiannual framework, with some need for alignment of fishing opportunities and utilisation rate by the Union fleet. In terms of the sectoral support component, the Commission concludes that the sectoral support funds have (i) helped to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, and (ii) contributed to improved ocean governance in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the region.

In the *ex ante* evaluation contained in the SWD, the Commission concludes that the negotiation of a new Implementing Protocol, with some adjustments, is in the interest of both the Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. For the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, negotiating a new Implementing Protocol will secure continued cooperation with the Union on strengthening ocean governance through the dedicated sectoral support funds under a multiannual framework.

For the Union, it is important to maintain an instrument allowing for close sectoral cooperation with a country that is a major partner, a supplier of fishery products to the Union and a stakeholder on the international stage and that has fishing grounds that are of interest to the Union fleet.

- **Stakeholder consultations**

As part of the above-mentioned evaluation, the Commission consulted Member States, industry representatives and international civil society organisations, as well as the fisheries administration and civil society representatives of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. These consultations led to the conclusion that it is in the interest of the Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to maintain an instrument allowing for in-depth sectoral cooperation, with multiannual funding possibilities for the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. It is in the interest of Union vessel owners to maintain access to an important fishing zone by means of a fisheries agreement.

³ European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, POSEIDON, *Évaluation rétrospective et prospective du Protocole de mise en œuvre de l'accord de partenariat dans le domaine de la pêche entre l'Union européenne et la République de Guinea-Bissau – Rapport final* [Ex post and ex ante evaluation of the Implementing Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau – Final report], Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2771/196367>.

⁴ Commission Staff Working Document, Evaluation to the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Guinea-Bissau, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024SC0005>.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

The Commission used an independent consultant for the *ex post* and *ex ante* evaluations, in accordance with Article 31(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 establishing the common fisheries policy.

- **Impact assessment**

Not applicable

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

Not applicable

- **Fundamental rights**

The negotiated Protocol includes a clause on the consequences of violating the essential elements regarding human rights as laid down in Articles 8 and 9 of the Samoa Agreement⁵.

4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The financial contribution under the new Protocol is set at EUR 17 000 000 per year, based on:

- (a) an annual amount of EUR 12 500 000 for access to fishery resources in the fishing zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; and
- (b) a specific amount of EUR 4 500 000 per year in support of the sectoral policy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

This support meets the objectives of cooperation in the fields of sustainable exploitation of fishery resources, aquaculture, sustainable development of the oceans, protection of the marine environment, and the blue economy.

The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is established during the annual budgetary procedure, including for the reserve line for protocols not yet having entered into force at the beginning of the year⁶.

5. OTHER ELEMENTS

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

The monitoring arrangements are provided for in the FPA and the new Protocol.

⁵ Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part (OJ L, 2023/2861, 28.12.2023) <https://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/02862/oj>.

⁶ In accordance with point 20 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on cooperation in budgetary matters (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020).

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Implementing Protocol (2024-2029) to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

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(6)(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,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Council Decision [XXX] of [...] ¹, the Implementing Protocol ('the Protocol') to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau was signed on [...], subject to its conclusion at a later date.
- (2) The objectives of the Protocol are to enable Union vessels to fish in the fishing zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and to enable the Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to work closely together to further promote the development of a sustainable fisheries policy and the responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the fishing zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. This cooperation will also contribute to decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.
- (3) This Protocol should be approved on behalf of the European Union.
- (4) In order for the Protocol to enter into force, the Commission, as the representative of the Union, should follow up on the Council Decision and notify the Republic of Guinea-Bissau of the Union's consent to be bound by the Protocol.
- (5) Article 10 of the Agreement establishes a Joint Committee responsible for monitoring the application of the Agreement and the Protocol. That committee has the power to approve certain amendments to the Protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such amendments, the Commission should be empowered, subject to substantive and procedural conditions, to approve them on behalf of the Union under a simplified procedure.
- (6) The Union's position on proposed amendments to the Protocol should be established by the Council. The proposed amendments should be approved unless a blocking minority of Member States, in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Treaty on European Union, objects to them.

¹ (...) (OJ L [...], [...], p. [...]).

- (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 Council² and delivered an opinion on [date],

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Implementing Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau ('the Protocol') is hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

The text of the Protocol is attached to this Decision as Annex 1.

Article 2

In accordance with the provisions and conditions laid down in Annex 2 to this Decision, the Commission is authorised to approve, on behalf of the Union, amendments to the Protocol adopted by the Joint Committee established under Article 10 of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the seventh day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

² 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, p. 39).

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

1.2. Policy area(s) concerned

1.3. The proposal/initiative relates to:

1.4. Objective(s)

1.4.1. General objective(s)

1.4.2. Specific objective(s)

1.4.3. Expected result(s) and impact

1.4.4. Performance indicators

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

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

1.5.3. Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past

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

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

1.6. Duration and financial impact of the proposal/initiative

1.7. Method(s) of budget implementation planned

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

2.2. Management and control system(s)

2.2.1. Justification of the management mode(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed

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

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

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

3. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

- 3.1. Heading(s) of the multiannual financial framework and expenditure budget line(s) affected**
- 3.2. Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations**
 - 3.2.1. Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations*
 - 3.2.2. Estimated output funded with operational appropriations*
 - 3.2.3. Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations*
 - 3.2.4. Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework*
 - 3.2.5. Third-party contributions*
- 3.3. Estimated impact on revenue**

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Implementing Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the European Community

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 carried out by Union fishing vessels in third-country waters

1.3. The proposal/initiative relates to:

☒ **a new action**

☐ **a new action following a pilot project / preparatory action⁹**

☐ **the extension of an existing action**

☐ **a merger or redirection of one or more actions towards another / a new action**

1.4. Objective(s)

1.4.1. General objective(s)

The negotiation and conclusion of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) with third countries meet the general objective of giving Union fishing vessels access to the fishing zones of third countries and developing a partnership with those countries with a view to strengthening the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources outside the Union's waters.

SFPAs also ensure consistency between the principles governing the common fisheries policy and commitments made under other European policies, such as sustainable use 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, and better political and financial governance of fisheries.

1.4.2. Specific objective(s)

Specific objective No 1

To contribute to sustainable fishing in non-Union waters, maintain a European presence in distant-water fisheries and protect the interests of the European fisheries sector and consumers by negotiating and concluding SFPAs with coastal states, consistent with other European policies.

⁹ As referred to in Article 58(2)(a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

1.4.3. *Expected result(s) and impact*

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

Concluding the Implementing Protocol to the Agreement means that the strategic fisheries partnership between the European Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau can be continued and strengthened. Concluding the Protocol will create fishing opportunities for Union vessels in the fishing zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

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

Finally, the Protocol will contribute to the maritime economy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, promoting growth linked to maritime activity and the sustainable exploitation of its marine resources.

1.4.4. *Performance indicators*

Specify the indicators for monitoring progress and achievements.

Fishing opportunity exploitation rates (annual uptake of fishing authorisations as a percentage of availability under the Protocol).

Catch data (gathering and analysis) and the commercial value of the Agreement.

Contribution to creating jobs and establishing decent working conditions in the fisheries sector, creating added value in the Union and stabilising the Union market (in aggregate with other SFPAs).

Contribution to improving research, surveillance and control of fishing activity by the partner country and development of its fisheries sector, in particular small-scale fisheries.

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 intended that the new Implementing Protocol will apply provisionally from the date on which it is signed, so as to minimise any interruption of fishing operations resulting from the expiry of the current Protocol.

The new Protocol will provide a framework for fishing activity by the Union fleet in the fishing zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and will allow Union vessel owners to apply for fishing authorisations to fish in that zone. In addition, the new Protocol will enhance cooperation between the Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau 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 the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in the context of its national fisheries strategy and maritime economy, including in the fight against IUU fishing, while promoting decent working conditions for fishing activity.

1.5.2. *Added value of Union involvement (this may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities). For*

the purposes of this point, 'added value of Union involvement' is the value resulting from Union involvement which is additional to the value that would otherwise have been created by Member States alone.

Failure by the Union to agree on a new Protocol would impede the fishing activity of Union vessels, as the current Agreement contains a clause excluding fishing activity not taking place in the framework defined by a protocol to the Agreement. Consequently, the added value for the Union's long-distance fleet is very clear. The Protocol also provides a framework for enhanced cooperation between the Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

1.5.3. Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past

Analysis of past catches in the fishing zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and of available assessments and scientific advice has led the Parties to set fishing opportunities expressed in terms of fishing effort (GRT) for the following categories: freezer shrimp trawlers and freezer fin-fish and cephalopod trawlers. The Protocol also sets fishing opportunities for freezer tuna seiners and longliners and for pole-and-line tuna vessels. The fishing opportunities for small pelagic species are expressed as a total allowable catch (TAC) and are set at 0 tonnes because of the reservations expressed on the state of the stocks and the low uptake of these fishing opportunities in the previous Protocol. These fishing opportunities may be revised by mutual agreement in the Joint Committee on the basis of a recommendation from the Joint Scientific Committee. Sectoral support has been set at a high level in order to take account of the priorities of the national fisheries strategy and the blue economy.

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

Funds provided as financial compensation for access under the FPA constitute fungible revenue in the national budget of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. However, the conclusion and monitoring of SFPAs require funds intended for sectoral support to be allocated (generally by including them in the annual budget law) to the Ministry responsible for fisheries. 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

Not applicable

1.6. Duration and financial impact of the proposal/initiative

X limited duration

- X In force for a period of 5 years from the date of signature
- X Financial impact for a period of 5 years from the date of signature for commitment appropriations and for a period of 5 years and 6 months from the date of signature for payment appropriations.

- **Unlimited duration**

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

1.7. Management mode(s) planned¹⁰

X Direct management by the Commission

- X by its departments, including by its staff in the Union delegations;
- ☐ by 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 EIB 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;
- ☐ persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the CFSP pursuant to Title V of the TEU, and identified in the relevant basic act.
- *If more than one management mode is indicated, please provide details in the 'Comments' section.*

Comments

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¹⁰ Details of management modes and references to the Financial Regulation can be found on the BudgWeb site: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/budgweb/FR/man/budgmanag/Pages/budgmanag.aspx>.

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

Specify frequency and conditions.

The Commission (DG MARE, in cooperation with its fisheries attaché responsible for the region, and in coordination with the Union Delegation to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and 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.

The FPA provides for at least one annual meeting of the Joint Committee, at which the Commission and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau will review the implementation of the Agreement and Protocol and, if necessary, adjust the programming and, if applicable, the financial contribution.

2.2. Management and control system(s)

2.2.1. *Justification of the management mode(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed*

Separate payments will be made for the contribution for access and the contribution linked to sectoral support. The payments for access will be made annually on the anniversary date of the Protocol, except in the 1st year, when the payment will be made within 3 months of the start of provisional application. Vessel access will be controlled by the issuing of fishing authorisations.

The support will be paid for the first time within 3 months of the start of provisional application, subject to agreement on an annual and multiannual implementation programme; in the following years, it will be conditional on the results achieved. The results achieved and the implementation rate will be monitored in accordance with the guidelines on the provision of sectoral support for the fisheries policy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to be agreed by the Parties, on the basis of reports or documentary evidence provided by the partner country and technical inspections 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 identified risk is the underuse of fishing opportunities by Union vessel owners and the underuse or delayed use by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau of funds intended to finance the sectoral fisheries policy. Extensive dialogue is planned on the programming and implementation of the sectoral policy referred to in the Agreement and the Protocol. In addition, the Agreement and the Protocol contain specific clauses for their suspension, under certain conditions and in given circumstances.

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

Payments relating to access costs under SFPAs are subject to checks aimed at ensuring their compliance with the provisions of international agreements. Checks relating to sectoral support are aimed at monitoring its implementation. Monitoring is carried out by Commission staff at Union delegations and during Joint Committee

meetings. A multiannual programming matrix is used to evaluate progress. If progress is insufficient, the payment of the next instalment is suspended or possibly reduced. The overall cost of the checks on all SFPAs is estimated to be around 1.8% (of total contributions in 2018). The procedures for checks on SFPAs are based largely on essential regulatory requirements. If no shortcomings are detected that could have a significant impact on the legality and regularity of the financial transactions, the checks are considered effective. The average error rate is estimated at 0.0%.

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

Specify existing or envisaged prevention and protection measures, e.g. from the anti-fraud strategy.

The Commission undertakes to establish political dialogue and regular coordination with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau with a view to improving the management of the Agreement and the Protocol and strengthening the Union's contribution to sustainable resource management. Any payment which the Commission makes under an SFPA is subject to the Commission's standard rules and budgetary and financial procedures. In particular, the bank accounts of the third countries into which the financial contribution is paid are fully identified. Article 6(6) of the Protocol provides that the financial contribution for access must be paid into a Public Treasury account, whereas the contribution intended for development of the sector must be paid into an official account under the supervision of the Ministry responsible for fisheries and the Ministry responsible for finance.

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 the order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./non-diff. ¹¹	from EFTA countries ¹²	from candidate countries ¹³	from third countries	within the meaning of Article 21(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation
Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union fishing vessels in third-country waters	08.05.01	Diff.	NO	NO	NO	NO

- New budget lines requested

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

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./non-diff.	from EFTA countries	from candidate countries	from third countries	within the meaning of Article 21(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]		YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

¹¹ Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.

¹² EFTA: European Free Trade Association.

¹³ Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

3.2. Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations

3.2.1. Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations

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

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework	No 2	Sustainable growth: natural resources
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DG MARE			Year N	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3	Year N+4	TOTAL
○ Operational appropriations								
Budget line ¹⁴ 08.05.01	Commitments	(1a)	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000
	Payments	(2a)	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)						
	Payments	(2b)						
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes ¹⁵								
Budget line		(3)						
TOTAL appropriations for DG MARE	Commitments	=1a+1b +3	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000
	Payments	=2a+2b +3	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000

¹⁴ According to the official budget nomenclature.

¹⁵ 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.

○ TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000
	Payments	(5)	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000
○TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)						
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 2 of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000
	Payments	=5+6	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000	85.000

Heading of multiannual financial framework	7	‘Administrative expenditure’
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This section should be filled in using the ‘budget data of an administrative nature’ to be previously entered in the [Annex to the Legislative Financial Statement](#) (Annex V to the internal rules), which is uploaded to DECIDE for interservice consultation purposes.

EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year N	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)		TOTAL
DG: <.....>								
<input type="radio"/> Human resources								
<input type="radio"/> Other administrative expenditure								
DG TOTAL <.....>	Appropriations							

TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework	(Total commitments = Total payments)								
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EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year N ¹⁶	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)		TOTAL
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 7 of the multiannual	Commitments							
	Payments							

¹⁶ Year N is the year in which implementation of the proposal/initiative starts. Please replace ‘N’ by the expected 1st year of implementation (for instance: 2021). Do the same for the following years.

financial framework									
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3.2.2. Estimated output funded with operational appropriations

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs ↓			Year 2024		Year 2025		Year 2026		Year 2027		Year 2028		TOTAL	
	OUTPUTS													
	Type ¹⁷	Avera ge cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Numb er	Cost	Total number	Total cost
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1 ¹⁸ ...														
- Access				12.500		12.500		12.500		12.500		12.500		62.500
- Sectoral				4.500		4.500		4.500		4.500		4.500		22.500
- Output				17.000		17.000		17.000		17.000		17.000		85.000
Subtotal for specific objective No 1				0.780		17.000		17.000		17.000		17.000		17.000
TOTALS				0.780		12.500		12.500		12.500		12.500		12.500

¹⁷ Outputs are products and services to be supplied (e.g. number of student exchanges financed, number of km of roads built).

¹⁸ As described in point 1.4.2 'Specific objective(s) ...'

3.2.3. Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations

- ☒ X 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:

EUR million (to three decimal places)

	Year N ¹⁹	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)	TOTAL
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HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework								
Human resources								
Other administrative expenditure								
Subtotal HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework								

Outside HEADING 7²⁰ of the multiannual financial framework								
Human resources								
Other administrative expenditure								
Subtotal outside HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework								

TOTAL								
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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.

¹⁹ Year N is the year in which implementation of the proposal/initiative starts. Please replace 'N' by the expected 1st year of implementation (for instance: 2021). Do the same for the following years.

²⁰ 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.

3.2.3.1. Estimated human resources requirements

- ☒ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of human resources
- ☐ The proposal/initiative requires the use of human resources, as explained below

Estimate to be expressed in full-time equivalent units

	Year N	Year N+1	Year N +2	Year N +3	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)		
○ Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary staff)							
20 01 02 01 (Headquarters and Commission’s representation offices)							
20 01 02 03 (Delegations)							
01 01 01 01 (Indirect research)							
01 01 01 11 (Direct research)							
Other budget lines (specify)							
○ External staff (in full-time equivalent units: FTEs) ²¹							
20 02 01 (AC, END, INT from the ‘global envelope’)							
20 02 03 (AC, AL, END, INT and JPD in the delegations)							
XX 01 xx yy zz ²²	- at headquarters						
	- in delegations						
01 01 01 02 (AC, END, INT – indirect research)							
01 01 01 12 (AC, END, INT – direct research)							
Other budget lines (specify)							
TOTAL							

XX is the policy area or budget title concerned.

The human resources required will be met by staff from the DG who 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.

Description of the tasks to be carried out:

Officials and temporary staff	
External staff	

3.2.4. 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).

Explain what reprogramming is required, specifying the budget lines concerned and the corresponding amounts. Please provide an Excel table in the case of major reprogramming.

²¹ AC = contract staff; AL = local staff; END = seconded national expert; INT = agency staff; JPD = junior professionals in delegations.

²² Sub-ceilings for external staff covered by operational appropriations (former 'BA' lines).

- ☐ 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.

Explain what is required, specifying the headings and budget lines concerned, the corresponding amounts, and the instruments proposed to be used.

- ☐ requires a revision of the MFF.

Explain what is required, specifying the headings and budget lines concerned and the corresponding amounts.

3.2.5. *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 N ²³	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)			Total
Specify the co-financing body								
TOTAL appropriations co-financed								

²³ Year N is the year in which implementation of the proposal/initiative starts. Please replace 'N' by the expected 1st year of implementation (for instance: 2021). Do the same for the following years.

3.3. Estimated impact on revenue

- X 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 ²⁴						
		Year N	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)		
Article								

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

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

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²⁴ 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.