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European Union

Brussels, 29 September 2021  
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**Interinstitutional File:  
2021/0299(NLE)**

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**PECHE 319**

**PROPOSAL**

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From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	29 September 2021
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2021) 587 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Implementing Protocol thereto

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2021) 587 final.

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Encl.: COM(2021) 587 final



Brussels, 28.9.2021  
COM(2021) 587 final

2021/0299 (NLE)

Proposal for a

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Implementing Protocol thereto**

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### 1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

- **Reasons for and objectives of the proposal**

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement ('FPA') between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the European Community was signed on 8 August 2008 for a period of 6 years, and was applied on a provisional basis from the same date. The agreement is tacitly renewable and is therefore still in force. The latest 4-year Implementing Protocol (2015-2019) to the FPA was extended twice, each time for a period of 1 year. It expires on 15 November 2021<sup>1</sup>. On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives<sup>2</sup>, the European Commission conducted negotiations with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ('Mauritania') with a view to concluding, on behalf of the European Union, a new sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and implementing protocol. Following these negotiations, an agreement and a protocol were signed by the negotiators on 28 July 2021.

The new Agreement covers a period of 6 years from the date of provisional application laid down in Article 20 thereof, that being the date on which it is signed by both parties. It is tacitly renewable.

The new Implementing Protocol covers a period of 5 years from the date of provisional application laid down in Article 19 thereof, that being the date on which it is signed by both parties. It contains a clause providing for a review during its second year of application, with a view to a possible adjustment of the fishing opportunities and financial compensation.

The purpose of this proposal is to authorise the signing of both documents.

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

The main objective of the new Agreement is to provide an updated framework for cooperation, taking into account the priorities of the reformed common fisheries policy and its external dimension, with a view to continuing and strengthening the strategic partnership between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in the fisheries sector.

The Protocol aims to grant fishing opportunities to European Union vessels in the Mauritanian fishing zone in accordance with the best available scientific advice and the resolutions and recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), within the limits of the available surplus. The Commission based its negotiating position in part on the results of an evaluation of the previous Protocol (2015-2019) and a forward-looking assessment of whether a new protocol should be concluded. These were carried out by external experts. The aim is also to enhance cooperation between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania so as to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and the sound exploitation of fishery resources in the Mauritanian fishing zone and in the Atlantic Ocean, which is in the interests of both parties. This cooperation will also help to create jobs by ensuring decent working conditions, in accordance with ILO Convention 188 on work in the fishing sector.

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<sup>1</sup> OL L 404, 2.12.2020, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Adopted at the 3 418th Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 22 October 2015.

The new Protocol provides for the same fishing opportunities as the current Protocol during the first 2 years of application, except for a marginal adjustment of the reference tonnage for the two types of tuna vessel. Specifically, it covers the following categories:

– Category 1 – Vessels fishing for crustaceans other than spiny lobster and crab: 5 000 tonnes and 15 vessels;

– Category 2 – Black hake (non-freezer) trawlers and bottom longliners: 6 000 tonnes and 4 vessels;

Category 2a - Pelagic freezer trawlers targeting black hake: 3 500 tonnes of hake, 1 450 tonnes of squid, 600 tonnes of cuttlefish for 6 vessels;

– Category 3 – Vessels fishing for demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls: 3 000 tonnes and 6 vessels;

– Category 4 – Tuna seiners: 14 000 tonnes (reference tonnage) and 29 vessels;

– Category 5 – Pole-and-line tuna vessels and tuna longliners: 7 000 tonnes (reference tonnage) and 15 vessels;

– Category 6 – Pelagic freezer trawlers: 247 500 tonnes and 19 vessels;

– Category 7 – Non-freezer pelagic vessels: 15 000 tonnes (deducted from the volume under Category 6, if used) and 2 vessels.

- **Consistency with other EU policies**

The negotiation of a new sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and implementing protocol with Mauritania forms part of the EU's external action in relation to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and takes into account, in particular, the EU's objectives on respecting democratic principles and human rights.

In the case of Mauritania, the Fisheries Partnership Agreement is part of a broader bilateral partnership framework covering various areas, including development cooperation, peace and security, good governance, human rights, migration, human development, sustainable economic growth and development, including working conditions, the environment and climate change, and policy for outermost regions.

## **2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY**

- **Legal basis**

The legal basis is Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which establishes the common fisheries policy, and Article 218(5) TFEU on the

signing and the possibility of provisional application of agreements between the EU and third countries.

In accordance with Article 218(5) TFEU, the Council is to adopt a decision authorising the signing of the agreement. Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union lays down that, with the exception of the common foreign and security policy, the Commission is charged with ensuring the EU's external representation. Consequently, officials designated by the Commission have sole competence for signing an agreement between the EU and a third country.

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

The proposal falls under 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 activity carried out by EU vessels in third-country waters, as set out in Article 31 of the Regulation establishing the common fisheries policy. It complies with those provisions as well as with those on financial assistance to third countries laid down in Article 32 of that Regulation.

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

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

In 2018 the Commission carried out an *ex post* evaluation of the 2015-2019 Protocol to the FPA with Mauritania as well as an *ex ante* evaluation of a possible renewal of the Protocol.

The evaluation concluded that the EU fishing sector has a strong interest in fishing in Mauritania and that the renewal of the Protocol was in the interests of both parties, given the importance of fishing for the Mauritanian economy. Furthermore, renewing the Protocol would help to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance and would contribute to improved fisheries governance in the region.

For the EU, it is important to maintain an instrument allowing close sectoral cooperation with a country which, due to the size of the fishing area under its jurisdiction, is a major player in ocean governance at sub-regional level. Strengthening relations with Mauritania will also make it possible to create alliances within ICCAT and other regional bodies, in particular CECAF. Furthermore, for the EU fleet this means maintaining access to an important fishing area for the deployment of harvesting strategies under a multiannual, international legal framework. For the Mauritanian authorities, the aim is to maintain relations with the EU in order to strengthen ocean governance, benefit from dedicated sectoral support that provides for funding opportunities over several years, and use the vessel activity to start industrialising its processing sector to help diversify its economy.

- **Consultation of interested parties**

Member States, industry representatives and international civil society organisations, as well as Mauritania's fisheries administration and civil society, were consulted in the context of the

evaluation. Consultations also took place in the framework of the Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

The Commission used an independent consultant for the *ex post* and *ex ante* evaluations, in accordance with the provisions of Article 31(10) of the Regulation establishing the common fisheries policy.

- **Impact assessment**

Not applicable.

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

Not applicable.

- **Fundamental rights**

The negotiated agreement includes a clause on the consequences of infringing the essential elements regarding human rights laid down in Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement, or the corresponding article of the agreement which will succeed it.

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

For the first 2 years of application of the Protocol, the annual financial contribution for access by EU vessels to Mauritanian waters and fishery resources in those waters is a maximum of EUR 57 500 000. This amount will be reviewed before the third year of application of the Protocol. Such a review is necessary to take account of the development of the fish stocks covered by the Protocol, the management measures for these stocks to be adopted very shortly by Mauritania, and the effects in the long term of the technical measures put in place to make the protocol more attractive to European fleets. In particular, the review will allow fishing opportunities to be aligned with the actual fishing activity of European fleets in Mauritanian waters and, if necessary, will lead to an adjustment of the financial contribution paid by the EU. The financial contribution linked to support for development of Mauritania's sectoral fisheries policy is maintained at the overall level of the current Protocol, i.e. EUR 16 500 000 for the entire duration of the Protocol, but is spread over a period of 5 years, taking into account the rate of uptake of the funds and amounts that remain available under the current Protocol. This support meets the objectives of Mauritania's national strategic plan for fisheries. 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 year<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> In accordance with point 20 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on cooperation in budgetary matters (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020).

## **5. OTHER ELEMENTS**

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

Monitoring arrangements are provided for in the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol.

Proposal for a

## COUNCIL DECISION

### **on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Implementing Protocol thereto**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(2) thereof in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ('Mauritania'), approved by Council Regulation (EC) No 1801/2006<sup>1</sup>, entered into provisional application on 8 August 2008. The Protocol thereto setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement, which entered into force on the same day, has been replaced several times.
- (2) The latest Protocol to the Agreement will expire on 15 November 2021.
- (3) On 8 July 2019, the Council adopted a Decision<sup>2</sup> authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Mauritania with a view to concluding a new sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and a new protocol implementing that agreement.
- (4) Between September 2019 and July 2021, eight rounds of negotiations were held with Mauritania for the renewal of a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and a protocol implementing that agreement. Following these negotiations, the Partnership Agreement and the Implementing Protocol were signed on 28 July 2021.
- (5) The objectives of the Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol are to enable EU vessels to fish in Mauritanian waters and to enable the Union and Mauritania to work closely together to further promote the development of a sustainable fisheries policy and the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1801/2006 of 30 November 2006 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (OJ L 343, 8.12.2006, p. 1).

<sup>2</sup> Council Decision of 8 July 2019 authorising the opening of negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania with a view to concluding a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and a Protocol implementing that Agreement (ST 10231 2019 INIT).

the Mauritanian fishing zone and the Atlantic Ocean. This cooperation will also contribute to decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

- (6) The signing of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and the Implementing Protocol thereto should therefore be approved on behalf of the European Union, subject to their conclusion at a later date.
- (7) These acts should enter into force as soon as possible in view of the economic importance of EU fishing activity in the Mauritanian fishing zone and the need to limit, as far as possible, the duration of any interruption of that activity.
- (8) The Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol should therefore apply provisionally upon their signature.
- (9) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725<sup>3</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council and delivered an opinion on [*please insert date*],

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

The signing of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ('the Agreement') and the Implementing Protocol thereto ('the Protocol') is hereby approved on behalf of the Union, subject to the conclusion of the said acts.

The texts of the Agreement and the Protocol are annexed to this Decision.

#### *Article 2*

The General Secretariat of the Council shall establish the instrument of full powers authorising the person indicated by the Commission to sign the Agreement and the Protocol, subject to their conclusion.

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and 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).

*Article 3*

The Agreement and the Protocol shall apply provisionally, in accordance with Articles 20 and 19 thereof respectively, from the date of their signature, pending their entry into force.

*Article 4*

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council  
The President*

## LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

- 1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative
- 1.2. Policy area(s) concerned in the ABM/ABB structure
- 1.3. Nature of the proposal/initiative
- 1.4. Objective(s)
- 1.5. Grounds for the proposal/initiative
- 1.6. Duration and financial impact
- 1.7. Management mode(s) planned

### **2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

- 2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules
- 2.2. Management and control system
- 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 impact on expenditure
  - 3.2.1. *Summary of estimated impact on expenditure*
  - 3.2.2. *Estimated impact on operational appropriations*
  - 3.2.3. *Estimated impact on appropriations of an administrative nature*
  - 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 signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and of the Implementing Protocol thereto** 1.2. Policy area(s) concerned in the ABM/ABB structure<sup>7</sup>

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 EU fishing vessels in third-country waters

#### 1.3. Nature of the proposal/initiative

The proposal/initiative relates to a **new action**

The proposal/initiative relates to a **new action following a pilot project / preparatory action**<sup>8</sup>

The proposal/initiative relates to the **extension of an existing action**

The proposal/initiative relates to an **action redirected towards a new action**

#### 1.4. Objective(s)

##### 1.4.1. Commission multiannual strategic objective(s) pursued by the proposal/initiative

The negotiation and conclusion of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) with third countries meet the general objective of giving EU 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 EU waters.

SFPAs also ensure consistency between the principles governing the common fisheries policy and commitments made under other European policies (sustainable use of third-country resources, combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, integration of partner countries into the global economy, contributing to sustainable development in all its dimensions, and better political and financial governance of fisheries).

<sup>7</sup> ABM: *activity-based management* – ABB: *activity-based budgeting*.

<sup>8</sup> As referred to in Article 54(2)(a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

1.4.2. *Specific objective(s) and ABM/ABB activity(ies) concerned*

Specific objective No 1

To contribute to sustainable fishing in non-EU 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.

ABM/ABB activity(ies) concerned

08 05 01 – Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities carried out by EU fishing vessels in third-country waters

1.4.3. *Expected result(s) and impact*

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

Concluding the Agreement and the Implementing Protocol means that the strategic fisheries partnership between the European Union and Mauritania can be continued and strengthened. Concluding the Protocol will create fishing opportunities for EU vessels in the Mauritanian fishing zone.

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

Lastly, the Agreement and the Protocol will support Mauritania's sustainable exploitation of its marine resources and contribute to its fishing economy by promoting growth and decent working conditions in fishing-related economic activities.

1.4.4. *Result and impact indicators*

*Specify the indicators for monitoring implementation of the proposal/initiative.*

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 EU and stabilising the EU market (in aggregate with other SFPAs).

Contribution to improving research, surveillance and control of fishing activity by the partner country and the 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*

It is intended that the new Agreement and Implementing Protocol will apply provisionally from the date on which they are signed so as to minimise any period in which fishing will not be possible.

The new Protocol will provide a framework for fishing activity by the EU fleet in the Mauritanian fishing zone and will allow EU vessel owners to apply for fishing authorisations to fish in that zone. In addition, the new Protocol will enhance cooperation between the EU and Mauritania with the aim of promoting the development of all aspects of a sustainable fisheries policy. 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 Mauritania in the context of its national fisheries strategy, including in the fight against IUU fishing, while promoting decent working conditions for fishing activity.

### *1.5.2. Added value of EU involvement*

Failure by the EU to conclude a new Protocol would impede the fishing activity of EU 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 EU's long-distance fleet is very clear. The Protocol also offers a framework for enhanced cooperation between the EU and Mauritania.

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

Analysis of past catches in the Mauritanian fishing zone and of recent catches under similar protocols in the region, as well as the available assessments and scientific advice, have led the parties to set fishing opportunities in terms of catch limit (TAC) or reference tonnage for the categories referred to in the above explanatory memorandum. The fishing opportunities set will be the subject of a joint evaluation and a possible adjustment under Article 7 of the Protocol before the start of the third year. The sectoral support takes into account the need to boost the capacity of Mauritania's fisheries authorities and the priorities of the national fisheries strategy, including, in particular, scientific research and fishing control and monitoring activities.

### *1.5.4. Compatibility and possible synergy with other appropriate instruments*

Funds provided as financial compensation for access under the SFPA constitute fungible revenue in the national budget of Mauritania. However, the conclusion and monitoring of SFPAs require funds intended for sectoral support to be allocated (generally by including it 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.

## 1.6. Duration and financial impact

Proposal/initiative of **limited duration**

- Proposal/initiative in force from the date of signing in 2021, for a period of 5 years, ending in 2026
- Financial impact from 2021 to 2026

Proposal/initiative of **unlimited duration**

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

## 1.7. Management mode(s) planned<sup>9</sup>

**Direct management** by the Commission

- By its departments, including by staff in the EU 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 208 and 209 of the Financial Regulation;
  - public-law bodies;
  - bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that they provide 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 provide 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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<sup>9</sup> Details of management modes and references to the Financial Regulation can be found on the BudgWeb site: [http://www.cc.cec/budg/man/budgmanag/budgmanag\\_en.html](http://www.cc.cec/budg/man/budgmanag/budgmanag_en.html)

[...]

## **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 Mauritania, based in Nouakchott, 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.

Furthermore, the SFPA provides for at least one annual meeting of the Joint Committee, at which the Commission and Mauritania will review the implementation of the Agreement and Protocol and, if necessary, adjust the programming and the financial contribution.

### **2.2. Management and control system**

#### *2.2.1. Risk(s) identified*

The identified risk is the under-use of fishing opportunities by EU vessel owners and the under-use or delayed use by Mauritania 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. Joint analysis of results, as referred to in Article 8 of the Protocol, also forms part of these control methods. In addition, the Agreement and the Protocol contain specific clauses for their suspension, under certain conditions and in given circumstances.

#### *2.2.2. Information concerning the internal control system set up*

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 first year, when the payment will be made within 60 days of the start of provisional application. However, the contribution for access for the first year will be paid in two instalments, the second being conditional on the adoption by Mauritania of a management plan for fisheries targeting small pelagic species. Vessel access will be controlled by the issuing of fishing authorisations.

Sectoral support will be paid for the first time within 3 months of the Joint Committee approving the annual and multiannual implementation programme, and will be conditional on the results achieved for the following years. The results achieved and the implementation rate will be monitored in accordance with the conditions for the provision of sectoral support for Mauritania's fisheries policy laid down in Annex 2 to the Protocol and on the basis of reports or documentary evidence provided by the partner country and assessments and verifications carried out by the fisheries attaché.

2.2.3. *Estimate of the costs and benefits of checks and assessment of the expected level of risk of error*

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 in EU 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 to be below the materiality threshold.

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

*Specify existing or envisaged prevention and protection measures.*

The Commission undertakes to establish political dialogue and regular coordination with Mauritania with a view to improving the management of the Agreement and the Protocol and strengthening the EU'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. The financial contribution relating to access under Article 5(8) of the Protocol and the contribution linked to support for developing the sector under Annex 2 to the Protocol must be paid into a Public Treasury account. Furthermore, under Article 5(17) of the Protocol, European institutions may carry out on-site checks on projects financed through the financial contribution linked to sectoral support provided to the partner country under 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 the order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number [...][Heading..... .....]	Diff./non-diff. <sup>(10)</sup>	from EFTA countries <sup>11</sup>	from candidate countries <sup>12</sup>	from third countries	within the meaning of Article 21(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.
	08.05.01  Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities carried out by EU fishing vessels in third-country waters (SFAs)	Diff.	NO	NO	YES	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 [...][Heading..... .....]	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

<sup>10</sup> Diff. = differentiated appropriations / non-diff. = non-differentiated appropriations.

<sup>11</sup> EFTA: European Free Trade Association.

<sup>12</sup> Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

### 3.2. Estimated impact on expenditure

[This section should be filled in using **the spreadsheet on budget data of an administrative nature** (second document in annex to this financial statement) and uploaded to CISNET for inter-service consultation purposes]

#### 3.2.1. Summary of estimated impact on expenditure

EUR million (to three decimal places)

<b>Heading of multiannual financial framework:</b>	No 2	Sustainable growth: natural resources
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DG MARE			Year 2021 <sup>13</sup>	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	TOTAL
• Operational appropriations					(*)				
Budget line 08.05.01	Commitments	(1)	57 500	61 625	61 625	61 625	61 625		<b>304 000</b>
	Payments	(2)	50 000	69 125	61 625	61 625	61 625	<b>p.m.</b>	<b>304 000</b>
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes <sup>14</sup>									
Number of budget line		(3)							
<b>TOTAL appropriations for DG MARE</b>	Commitments	= 1 + 1a + 3	57 500	61 625	61 625	61 625	61 625		<b>304 000</b>
	Payments	= 2 + 2a + 3	50 000	69 125	61 625	61 625	61 625	<b>p.m.</b>	<b>304 000</b>

(\*) NB: amounts subject to review as from the third year; p.m.: part of the payment appropriations could be disbursed in 2026.

<sup>13</sup> Year N is the year in which implementation of the proposal/initiative starts.

<sup>14</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.

• TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	57 500	61 625	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000
	Payments	(5)	50 000	69 125	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000
• TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)						
<b>TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 2</b> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	= 4 + 6	57 500	61 625	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000
	Payments	= 5 + 6	50 000	69 125	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000

**If more than one heading is affected by the proposal/initiative:**

• TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	57 500	61 625	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000
	Payments	(5)	50 000	69 125	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000
• TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)						
<b>TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 4</b> of the multiannual financial framework (reference amount)	Commitments	= 4 + 6	57 500	61 625	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000
	Payments	= 5 + 6	50 000	69 125	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000

<b>Heading of multiannual financial framework:</b>	<b>5</b>	'Administrative expenditure'
--	----------	------------------------------

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: <.....>								
• Human resources								
• Other administrative expenditure								
<b>DG TOTAL &lt;.....&gt;</b>	Appropriations							

<b>TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 5 of the multiannual financial framework</b>	(Total commitments = Total payments)								
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EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year 2021 <sup>15</sup>	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	TOTAL
<b>TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 5 of the multiannual financial framework</b>	Commitments	57 500	61 625	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000
	Payments	50 000	69 125	61 625	61 625	61 625	304 000

<sup>15</sup> Year N is the year in which implementation of the proposal/initiative starts.

3.2.2. *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:

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs  ↓			Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	TOTAL			
	<b>OUTPUTS</b>										
	Type <sup>16</sup>	Average cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Total cost
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1 <sup>17</sup> ...											
- Fleet access		57 500		57 500		57 500		57 500		57 500	287 500
- Sectoral		3 300				4 125		4 125		4 125	16 500
- Output											
Subtotal for specific objective No 1											
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 2 ...											
- Output											
Subtotal for specific objective No 2											
<b>TOTAL COST</b>				57 500		61 625		61 625		61 625	304 000

<sup>16</sup> Outputs are products and services to be supplied (e.g. number of student exchanges financed, number of km of roads built, etc.).

<sup>17</sup> As described in point 1.4.2. ‘Specific objective(s)...’

### 3.2.3. Estimated impact on appropriations of an administrative nature

#### 3.2.3.1. Summary

- 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 <sup>18</sup>	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)				<b>TOTAL</b>
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<b>HEADING 5 of the multiannual financial framework</b>									
Human resources									
Other administrative expenditure									
<b>Subtotal HEADING 5 of the multiannual financial framework</b>									

<b>Outside HEADING 5<sup>19</sup> of the multiannual financial framework</b>									
Human resources									
Other administrative expenditure									
<b>Subtotal outside HEADING 5 of the multiannual financial framework</b>									

<b>TOTAL</b>									
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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.

<sup>18</sup> Year N is the year in which implementation of the proposal/initiative starts.

<sup>19</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.

### 3.2.3.2. 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)		
<b>• Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary agents)</b>							
XX 01 01 01 (Headquarters and Commission's representation offices)							
XX 01 01 02 (Delegations)							
XX 01 05 01 (Indirect research)							
10 01 05 01 (Direct research)							
<b>• External personnel (in full-time equivalent: FTE)<sup>20</sup></b>							
XX 01 02 01 (AC, END, INT from the 'global envelope')							
XX 01 02 02 (AC, AL, END, INT and JED in the delegations)							
XX 01 04 yy <sup>21</sup>	- at headquarters						
	- in delegations						
XX 01 05 02 (AC, END, INT – Indirect research)							
10 01 05 02 (AC, END, INT – Direct research)							
Other budget lines (specify)							
<b>TOTAL</b>							

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 that 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	
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<sup>20</sup> AC= contract staff; AL = local staff; END = seconded national expert; INT= agency staff; JED = junior experts in delegations.

<sup>21</sup> Sub-ceiling for external staff covered by operational appropriations (former 'BA' lines).

External staff	
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3.2.4. *Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework*

- The proposal/initiative is compatible with the current multiannual financial framework.
- The proposal/initiative will entail reprogramming of the relevant heading in the multiannual financial framework.

Use of the reserve line (Chapter 40).
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- The proposal/initiative requires application of the flexibility instrument or revision of the multiannual financial framework.

Explain what is required, specifying the headings and budget lines concerned and the corresponding amounts.
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[...]
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3.2.5. *Third-party contributions*

- The proposal/initiative does not provide for co-financing by third parties.
- The proposal/initiative provides for the co-financing estimated below:

Appropriations in 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
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 miscellaneous revenue

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Budget revenue line:	Appropriations available for the current financial year	Impact of the proposal/initiative <sup>22</sup>					Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)		
		Year N	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3				
Article .....									

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

[...]

Specify the method for calculating the impact on revenue.

[...]

<sup>22</sup> As regards traditional own resources (customs duties, sugar levies), the amounts indicated must be net amounts, i.e. gross amounts after deduction of 25% for collection costs.