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COVER NOTE

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To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
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Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2026-2030) between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 545 final.

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EUROPEAN
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Brussels, 13.10.2026
COM(2026) 545 final

2026/0310 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2026-2030) between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

• Reasons for and objectives of the proposal

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the European Union and Mauritius entered into force on 28 January 2014 for a duration of six years and is tacitly renewable for successive periods of three years. The implementing protocol has a four-year duration and will expire on 20 December 2026.

On the basis of the Council Decision of 31 March 2026 authorising the opening of negotiations with the Republic of Mauritius for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and implementing protocol, and on the basis of the negotiating directives contained in that Decision herein, the Commission conducted negotiations with the Republic of Mauritius (hereinafter 'Mauritius'). Following those negotiations, a new Agreement and implementing protocol were initialled by the negotiators on 4 September 2026. The new Agreement will reappeal the one currently in force. The new Agreement covers a period of four years from its provisional application and is tacitly renewable for successive periods of four years. The protocol covers a period of four years from the date of provisional application set out in Article 11, i.e. the date of its signature by the parties.

The purpose of the new protocol is to grant fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing zones located in the waters of Mauritius, in line with scientific advice and the recommendations of the relevant regional fisheries management organisations (such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)). The new protocol provides for the following fishing opportunities:

- 25 tuna purse seine vessels;
- 25 surface longliners.

Another objective is to improve cooperation between the European Union and Mauritius by implementing the partnership framework for the Agreement to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and the responsible exploitation of fishery resources in the waters of Mauritius, in the interest of both parties.

The purpose of this proposal is to obtain the Council's authorisation for the conclusion of the new SFPA and its implementing Protocol.

• Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area

The main objective of the new SFPA and its implementing protocol is to provide an updated framework that takes into account the priorities of the common fisheries policy (CFP) and its external dimension. This will help maintain and strengthen the strategic partnership between the European Union and Mauritius.

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 IOTC.

• Consistency with other Union policies

Negotiating a new SFPA and implementing protocol with Mauritius is part of the EU's external action towards the countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and, in particular, is in line with the European Union's objectives of respecting democratic principles and human rights.

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

• Substantive legal basis

Given the main objective and component of the SFPA and Protocol is in pursuit of the objectives of the common fisheries policy, the substantive legal basis is Article 43(2) TFEU.

• Procedural legal basis

In accordance with Article 218(6) TFEU, where the Agreement relates to matters outside of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), the Council is to adopt a decision concluding the Agreement on a proposal by the Commission as negotiator.

Given that Article 43(2) TFEU is the substantive legal basis, the Council is to adopt the decision concluding the Agreement after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, in accordance with Article 218(6), point (a) TFEU.

• Union competence

The proposal falls within the exclusive competence of the European Union.

• Proportionality

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

• Choice of the instrument

This proposal for a Council decision is submitted in accordance with Article 218(6) TFEU, which envisages the adoption by the Council of a decision concluding the agreement. There exists no other legal instrument that could be used in order to achieve the objective pursued by this proposal.

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

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

In 2025, the Commission carried out an *ex post* evaluation of the current protocol implementing the FPA with Mauritius and an *ex ante* evaluation of a possible renewal of the current Agreement and its protocol. The conclusions of the evaluation are set out in a separate staff working document[1].

The evaluation concluded that the EU fishing sectors are strongly interested in fishing in Mauritius, and that negotiating a new Agreement and implementing protocol is in the interest of both parties. Furthermore, the renewal of the protocol would help strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance, and would help improve governance of the fisheries in the region.

For the EU it is important to maintain an instrument that allows for deep sectoral cooperation with Mauritius, which is a strategic player in the region due to the fishing area under its jurisdiction, and an important ally in the framework of the IOTC. For the Union fleet's

[1] https://op.europa.eu/publication-detail/-/publication/c7f13a2e-16e6-11f1-8870-01aa75ed71a1.

harvesting strategies, this means maintaining access to an important fishing area under a multiannual international legal framework. The importance of Mauritius in terms of processing tuna caught in the Indian Ocean and exporting tuna products to the EU increases the relevance of the envisaged new protocol, both for Mauritius and for the EU fishing industry. For the Mauritian authorities, continued relations with the EU would also help strengthen ocean governance, because of the EU's dedicated support that provides for multiannual funding opportunities for this sector.

- **Stakeholder consultations**

Member States, industry representatives, international civil society organisations, the fisheries administration and representatives of civil society in Mauritius were consulted as part of the assessment.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

The Commission used an independent consultant for the *ex post* and *ex ante* evaluations, in line with Article 31(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy.

- **Impact assessment**

Not applicable.

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

Not applicable.

- **Fundamental rights**

The SFPA contains a clause on the consequences of violating human rights and democratic principles.

4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The annual financial contribution amounts to EUR 700 000, based on:

(a) an annual amount of EUR 200 000, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 4 000 tonnes per year; and

(b) a specific annual sectoral support amount of EUR 500 000 to help implement Mauritius's fisheries policy sector and its blue economy.

The annual amount for commitment and payment appropriations is set during the annual budgetary procedure, including for the reserve line for protocols not yet in force at the beginning of the year.

5. OTHER ELEMENTS

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

The monitoring arrangements are provided for in the SFPA and the Protocol.

- **Text of the Agreement and notifications**

The text of the SFPA and the Protocol is submitted to the Council together with this proposal.

In accordance with the Treaties, it is for the Commission to proceed to make the notification provided for in Article 24 of the Agreement and Article 12 of the Protocol, in order to express the consent of the Union to be bound by the Agreement and the Protocol.

2026/0310 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2026-2030) between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

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), second paragraph, 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,

Whereas:

(1) In accordance with Council Decision …/…, the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (hereinafter the 'Partnership Agreement'), together with an implementing Protocol (2026-2030) (hereinafter the 'Protocol') was signed on [xxx], subject to its conclusion at a later date, and has been applied on a provisional basis since the date of the signature, pending its entry into force.

(2) The Partnership Agreement repeals the current Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius[2], which has been in force since 28 January 2014 for a duration of six years and is tacitly renewable for additional periods of three years from its entry into force.

(3) The aim of the Partnership Agreement and its implementing Protocol is to allow Union vessels to fish in Mauritius' fishing zone, to enable the Union and Mauritius to work closely together to further promote the development of a sustainable fisheries policy and the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in Mauritius' fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean. That cooperation will also contribute to the creation of decent working conditions in the fishing industry.

(4) The Partnership Agreement and Protocol should be approved.

(5) Article 16 of the Partnership 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 under a simplified procedure.

(6) The Union's position on proposed amendments to the Protocol that do not fall under Article 16 of the Partnership Agreement should be established by the Council. The proposed amendments should be approved unless a blocking minority of Member

[2] OJ L 79, 18.3.2014, p. 3, http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2014/146/oj.

States, in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Treaty on European Union, objects to those amendments.

(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 Council[3] and delivered an opinion on [xxx],

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION

Article 1

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius ('Partnership Agreement') and implementing Protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius (2026-2030) ('the Protocol') are hereby approved.

Article 2

In accordance with the procedure and conditions set out in the Annex III to this Decision, the Commission shall be empowered to approve amendments to the Protocol adopted by the Joint Committee established under Article 16 of the Agreement.

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

[3] 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), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL STATEMENT

1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, and provisional application of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2026-2030) between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

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. Objective(s)

1.3.1. General objective(s)

The negotiation and conclusion of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with third countries meets the general objective of allowing Union fishing vessels access to third country fishing grounds and developing a partnership with these countries with a view to strengthening the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources outside Union waters.

The SFPAs also ensure consistency between the principles governing the Common Fisheries Policy and the commitments enshrined in other European policies such as sustainable exploitation 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, as well as better governance of fisheries at political and financial level.

1.3.2. Specific objective(s)

Specific objective 1

Contribute to sustainable fisheries in waters outside the Union, maintain a European presence in distant water fisheries and protect the interests of the European fishing industry and consumers, by negotiating and concluding SFPAs with coastal states, in coherence with other European policies.

1.3.3. Expected result(s) and impact

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

The conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and implementing Protocol allows the strategic partnership in the field of fisheries between the European Union and Mauritius to be continued and strengthened. The conclusion of the Partnership Agreement and Protocol will create fishing opportunities for Union vessels in Mauritius' fishing zone.

The Partnership Agreement and implementing Protocol will also contribute to better management and conservation of fisheries resources, through financial support

(sectoral support) for the implementation of programmes adopted at national level by the partner country, in particular the global plan for fisheries, the monitoring of and fight against illegal fishing, and support for the small-scale fishing sector.

Finally, the Partnership Agreement and implementing Protocol will contribute to the sustainable exploitation by Mauritius of its marine resources, as well as to the Mauritius' fisheries economy, by promoting growth linked to fisheries-related economic activities and the establishment of decent working conditions.

1.3.4. Indicators of performance

Specify the indicators for monitoring progress and achievements.

Utilisation rate of fishing opportunities (annual percentage of fishing authorisations used in relation to the availability offered by the Protocol).

Catch data (collection and analysis) and commercial value of the agreement.

Creation of added value in the Union and the stabilisation of the Union market (aggregated with other SFPAs).

Contribution to improving research, monitoring and control of fishing activities by the partner country and the development of its fisheries sector, particularly small-scale fisheries.

1.4. The proposal/initiative relates to:

■ a new action

☐ a new action following a pilot project / preparatory action[4]

☐ the extension of an existing action

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

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 foreseen that the new Partnership Agreement and implementing Protocol will apply provisionally from the date of signature in order to reduce the time during which fishing operations are not possible.

The new Partnership Agreement and implementing Protocol will regulate the fishing activities of the Union fleet in Mauritius' fishing zone and will authorise the owners of Union vessels to apply for fishing authorisations to fish in that zone. In addition, the new Partnership Agreement and Protocol will strengthen cooperation between the EU and Mauritius 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 Mauritius in the framework of its national fisheries strategy, including the fight against IUU fishing, while promoting decent working conditions during fishing activities. Implementation will start upon signature and for a duration of four years.

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

[4] As referred to in Article 58(2), point (a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

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

If the Union did not conclude a new Partnership Agreement and implementing Protocol, Union vessels would not be able to carry out their fishing activities, given that the current agreement includes a clause excluding fishing activities that do not take place within the framework defined by a Protocol to the agreement. The added value for the Union's distant water fleet is therefore clear. The Protocol also provides a framework for enhanced cooperation between the Union and Mauritius.

1.5.3. Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past

Analysis of historical catches in Mauritius' fishing zone and available scientific assessments and advice led the Parties to set fishing opportunities for 25 tuna purse seine vessels and 25 surface longliners. Sectoral support is important in order to take into account the priorities of the national strategy for fisheries, blue economy and the exploitation of natural resources.

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

The funds allocated as financial compensation for access to the SFPA constitute fungible revenue to Mauritius' national budget. However, funds intended for sectoral support are allocated (generally by inclusion in the annual budget law) to the Ministry responsible for fisheries, as a condition for the conclusion and monitoring of SFPAs. 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 of the proposal/initiative and of its financial impact

☒ **limited duration**

– ☒ in effect for a period of four years from the date of signature

– ☒ financial impact from 2026 to 2030.

☐ **unlimited duration**

– Implementation with a start-up period from YYYY to YYYY,

– followed by full-scale operation.

1.7. Method(s) of budget implementation planned

☒ **Direct management** by the Commission

– ☒ by its departments, including by its staff in the Union delegations;

– ☐ by the 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 European Investment Bank 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

– ☐ bodies or persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the common foreign and security policy pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union, and identified in the relevant basic act

– ☐ bodies established in a Member State, governed by the private law of a Member State or Union law and eligible to be entrusted, in accordance with sector-specific rules, with the implementation of Union funds or budgetary guarantees, to the extent that such bodies are controlled by public law bodies or by bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, and are provided with adequate financial guarantees in the form of joint and several liability by the controlling bodies or equivalent financial guarantees and which may be, for each action, limited to the maximum amount of the Union support.

Comments

Not applicable.

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

The Commission (DG MARE, in collaboration with its Ocean and Fisheries Attaché responsible for Mauritius, and in coordination with the relevant Commission departments) will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement and Protocol as regards the use of fishing opportunities by operators, catch data and compliance with the conditions for sectoral support.

In addition, the SFPA provides for at least one annual meeting of the Joint Committee during which the Commission and Mauritius will review the implementation of the Agreement and its Protocol and make any necessary adjustments to programming and, where appropriate, to the financial contribution.

2.2. Management and control system(s)

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

Payments are implemented in a decoupled manner for the access counterparty and the sectoral support counterparty.

Payments relating to access are made each year not later than the anniversary date of the Protocol, except in the first year, when payment is made within three months of the start of provisional application. Vessel access is controlled by the issuing of fishing authorisations.

Payment of the sectoral support will be made the first time within 30 days after the Joint Committee adopts the multiannual sectoral programme; for subsequent years, payment will be subject to the results achieved. The results achieved and the rate of implementation will be monitored in accordance with the implementing rules detailed in the Annex III to the Protocol and on the basis of reports or documentary evidence provided by the partner country and evaluations and verifications carried out by the Ocean and Fisheries Attaché.

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

The risk identified is an under-utilisation of fishing opportunities by Union shipowners and under-utilisation or delays in the use of funds intended to finance the sectoral fisheries policy by Mauritius. Extensive dialogue is planned on the programming and implementation of the sectoral policy laid down in the Agreement and the Protocol. Article 9 of the Agreement includes a recovery clause to ensure the sound management of financial contribution paid by the European Union. This clause allows for the European Union to recover part of the annual access financial contribution or sectoral support allocated to Mauritius. The joint monitoring of results referred to in the Annex III to the Protocol is also one of these means of control. In addition, the Agreement and the Protocol contain specific clauses for their suspension, on certain conditions and in given circumstances.

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

Payments of access costs under SFPAs are subject to checks to ensure that they comply with the provisions of international agreements. Controls relating to sectoral support aim to monitor the implementation of this support. Monitoring is carried out by Commission staff based in EU delegation and at meetings of the Joint Committee. A multiannual programming matrix is used to assess progress. If progress is insufficient, payment of the next instalment is suspended or reduced. It is estimated that the overall cost of controls on all SFPAs is around 1.8 % (of all contributions in 2018). SFPA control procedures are largely based on essential regulatory requirements. If no deficiencies are detected that are likely to have a significant impact on the legality and regularity of financial transactions, the controls are considered to be effective.

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

The Commission undertakes to establish a political dialogue and regular consultations with Mauritius in order to improve the management of the Agreement and the Protocol and to strengthen the Union's contribution to the sustainable management of resources. Any payment made by the Commission under a SFPA is subject to the Commission's normal budgetary and financial rules and procedures. In particular, the bank accounts of the third countries to which the amounts of the financial contribution are paid shall be fully identified. Article 7 of the Protocol and Annex III of the Protocol stipulate that the financial contribution for access and that for developing the sector must be paid into the Mauritius' Accountant-General bank account. Provisions on the recovery of unduly paid access and sectoral support funds are included in Article 9 of the Agreement and the Annex III to 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 order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff.[5]	from EFTA countries[6]	from candidate countries and potential candidates[7]	From other third countries	other assigned revenue
	08.05.01	Diff.	NO	NO	NO	NO

5 Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.
6 EFTA: European Free Trade Association.
7 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

3.2.1.1. Appropriations from voted budget

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Number 2	Sustainable growth: natural resources

DG MARE			Year **2026**	Year **2027**	Year **2028**	Year **2029**	**TOTAL MFF 2026-2030**
Operational appropriations							
Budget line 08.05.01	Commitments	(1a)	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**
	Payments	(2a)	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes							
TOTAL appropriations for DG MARE	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**

			Year **2026**	Year **2027**	Year **2028**	Year **2029**	**TOTAL MFF 2026-2030**
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**
	Payments	(5)	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 2 of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**
	Payments	=5+6	700 000	700 000	700 000	700 000	**2 800 000**

EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year 2026	Year 2027	Year 2028	Year 2029	TOTAL MFF 2026-2029
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 7	Commitments	**700 000**	**700 000**	**700 000**	**700 000**	**2 800 000**
of the multiannual financial framework	Payments	**700 000**	**700 000**	**700 000**	**700 000**	**2 800 000**

3.2.2. Estimated output funded from operational appropriations (not to be completed for decentralised agencies)

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs ⇩			Year **2026**		Year **2027**		Year **2028**		Year **2029**		**TOTAL**	
	Type[8]	Average cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	Total No	Total cost
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1[9]…												
- Access				200 00		200 00		200 000		200 00		800 000
- Sectoral				500		500		500 000		500		2 000
- Output												
Subtotal for specific objective No 1												
TOTALS				700 000		700 000		700 000		700 000		2 800 000

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

[9] As described in Section 1.3.2. 'Specific objective(s)'

3.2.3. Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations

– ☒ 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

3.2.4. Estimated requirements of human resources

– ☒ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of human resources

– ☐ The proposal/initiative requires the use of human resources, as explained below

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 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[10]			
		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**
Article …….					

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

[…]

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

[…]

4. DIGITAL DIMENSIONS

4.1. Requirements of digital relevance

Reference to the requirement	**Requirement description**	**Use of digital technology**
Vessel Monitoring System (Protocol Article 7, Annex Chapter IV and Appendix 3)	The vessel must be equipped with a vessel monitoring device and provide information identifying the vessel, its position, course and speed at regular intervals (VMS data).	VMS
Electronic fishing logbooks (Protocol Article 7, Annex	The master must record catch data on a daily basis in an electronic fishing logbook	ERS

[10] 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.

Chapter III and Appendix 3)	integrated into an electronic recording and reporting system (ERS).	
Requests for authorisation of vessels (Annex to the Protocol, Chapter I)	A database of authorisations is used to apply for the fishing authorisation from the partner country	LICENCE
Daily data transmission (Annex to the Protocol, Chapter IV and Appendix 3)	Electronic logbook data shall be transmitted automatically and on a daily basis to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag State.	ERS
Entries into and exits from the fishing zone, prior notifications and landing and transhipment declarations (Protocol Article 7, Annex Chapter III, Chapter IV, and Appendix 3)	Recording and transmission of each entry into and exit from the fishing zone via the ERS or other electronic means of communication.	ERS
Quarterly aggregated data (Annex Chapter III)	The flag State shall provide the European Commission with the aggregated quantities of catches and discards on a quarterly basis.	ECR
Data protection (Agreement Article 15 and Protocol Annex II)	Data on fishing activities shall be treated in a confidential and secure manner.	

4.2. Data

Alignment with the European Data Strategy

The key reporting requirements are based on digital technology, in particular through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS, which transmits vessel positions and identification) and the daily automatic transmission of electronic logbooks (ERS, which transmits its identified, localised and quantified catches). The quarterly and annual aggregated catch reports use an implicit numerical database for data aggregation (ECR database) fed by the flag Member States. Data protection and privacy:

• The agreement stresses the importance of protecting personal data. The specified measures shall ensure that data shared for fishing activities are processed safely, in compliance with GDPR requirements and in line with the strategy's objective of creating a secure and competitive digital economy.

Data sharing and transparency:

• The agreement encourages data sharing between Mauritius and the EU, promoting transparency and accountability in fishing activities. This reflects the objective of the European Data Strategy to improve access to and use of data, facilitating better decision-making and resource management.

Alignment with the once-only principle

Consideration of the Only Once Principle

• The ‘only once’ principle is not mentioned, but the information is provided by operators only once to the public authorities, in accordance with the flag State’s principle of responsibility: it collects data from vessels and keeps it in VMS and ERS databases, which can be used for various parties, minimises redundancy and administrative burden, making it possible to use the same data to meet several reporting requirements to the different authorities.

FAIR principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable and Easy to find:

• The introduction of electronic reporting systems ensures that data is catalogued and searchable in a systematic manner, helping to make the data easy to find. Automated systems such as ERS allow for structured data archiving, which is consistent with the ease of finding FAIR principles. Accessibility: • Data must be accessible to authorised entities through secure digital platforms, allowing real-time sharing and minimising unnecessary barriers. This controlled accessibility ensures that the right actors have access to information as necessary, in line with the FAIR principles. Interoperability: • The use of the UN/FLUX format for data exchange improves interoperability. This standardisation allows different systems to share and use data smoothly, meeting one of the core objectives of the FAIR principles. Reusability:

• By specifying quality standards and secure data management in the Protocol, data are more likely to be of high quality and thus reusable for different objectives such as scientific research, policy development and fisheries management. Ensuring high data quality and compliance with international standards supports their re-use in various contexts, thus respecting the reusability aspect of the FAIR principles.

• In summary, the requirements of the Protocol are aligned with the European Data Strategy through enhanced data protection, increased sharing and implementation of digital systems. They consider the ‘only once’ principle by reducing redundant data submissions and align themselves with the FAIR principles to ensure that data is well managed for a wide range of purposes.

4.3. Digital solutions

The main digital solutions used are VMS, ERS, LICENCE and ECR, which are existing digital solutions for fisheries control put in place by the European Commission and used by the flag Member States. • The data identified in 4.1 are usually exchanged by these digital solutions between a vessel (EU operator) and its flag State, and then between the EU and the partner country (notably between fisheries monitoring centres, which are state control bodies). • Aggregated data are derived from operators’ declarations to the flag Member State, which reprocess them and feed into a European Commission database (Effort and Catch Reporting, ECR).• Applications for fishing authorisations sent to the partner country involve data from a Fleet database (EU fishing register) and a LICENCE database, which are then transmitted by the European Commission to the partner country. What measures are in place to protect digitally transmitted data? The Agreement specifies the need for secure and confidential treatment of data (Article 15 and Annex II). Is there a plan to address failures in digital systems? Yes, in the Protocol provision is made for alternative communication methods in case of system failure to ensure continuity of reporting (Annex, Chapter III).

4.4. Interoperability assessment

The use of the UN/FLUX format for data exchange improves interoperability. This

standardisation allows different systems to share and use data smoothly.

4.5. Measures to support digital implementation

Implementation support is provided by the European Commission.