Council of the European Union

Brussels, 15 October 2026
(OR. en)

14237/26

Interinstitutional File:
2026/0309 (NLE)

PECHE 399

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	13 October 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2026) 544 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, and provisional application 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) 544 final.

Encl.: COM(2026) 544 final

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.10.2026
COM(2026) 544 final

2026/0309 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the signing, and provisional application 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[1] entered into force on 28 January 2014 for a duration of six years and is tacitly renewable for additional periods of three years. The implementing Protocol which entered into force on 7 September 2023 has a four-year duration and will expire on 20 December 2026.

On the basis of the Council Decision of 31 March 2026[2] authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union with the Republic of Mauritius for a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (the 'SFPA') and implementing Protocol (the 'Protocol'), 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 replace the one currently in force. The new Agreement shall apply for a period of four years from the date of provisional application set out in Article 20 of the Agreement and shall be tacitly renewable for successive periods of four years. The Protocol shall apply for a period of four years from the date of provisional application set out in Article 11 of the Protocol, i.e. the date of its signature by the parties.

• Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area

The main objective of the new SFPA and Protocol is to provide an updated framework that takes into account the priorities of the Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension, with a view to pursuing and strengthening the strategic partnership between the European Union and Mauritius in the fisheries sector. The Protocol grants fishing opportunities to Union vessels in the fishing zone located in the waters of Mauritius, in line with the best available scientific advice and the resolutions and recommendations of the Indian Ocean Tuna Convention (IOTC) within the limits of the available balance. The Commission based its position partly on the results of an evaluation of the previous Protocol (2022-2026) and a prospective assessment of the advisability of concluding a new Agreement and implementing Protocol. Those evaluations were carried out by external experts. The aim is also to strengthen cooperation between the European Union and Mauritius to promote a sustainable fisheries policy and the responsible exploitation of fisheries resources in Mauritius's fishing zone and in the Indian Ocean, in the interests of the parties. The new Protocol provides for the following fishing opportunities:

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

• Consistency with other Union policies

Negotiating a new SFPA and 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 EU's objectives of respecting democratic principles and human rights.

---

1 http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2014/146/oj

2 Ares(2026)3459674

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

Article 218(5) TFEU provides that, where the agreement envisaged does not relate exclusively or principally to the common foreign and security policy, the Commission shall submit a proposal to the Council. The Council shall adopt a decision authorising the signing of the agreement.

The Commission proposes to authorise the signing of the SFPA and Protocol subject to its conclusion at a later date.

The procedural legal basis for the proposed decision to authorise the signing of the envisaged agreement is Article 218(5) 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 by EU vessels in non-EU countries waters, as laid down in Article 31 of the Regulation 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(5) TFEU, which envisages the adoption by the Council of a decision authorising the signing and the provisional application of the Agreement. There exists no other legal instrument that could be used in order to achieve the objective expressed in 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 to 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[3].

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 EU fleet's

[3] 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 called on an independent consultant for the ex-post and *ex ante* evaluations, in line with the provisions of Article 31(10) of the Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy.

- **Impact assessment**

Not applicable.

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

Not applicable.

- **Fundamental rights**

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement 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 set out in the SFPA and the Protocol.

- **Detailed explanation of the specific provisions of the proposal**

Not applicable.

- **Signing and the text of the Agreement**

The text of the SFPA and of the Protocol is submitted to the Council together with this proposal. In accordance with the Treaties, it is for the Commission to ensure the signing of the SFPA and the Protocol, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

2026/0309 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the signing, and provisional application 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(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) between the European Union and Mauritius[4] was approved by means of Council Decision (EU) 2014/146 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius and entered into force on 28 January 2014. The Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for under the Agreement has been replaced several times since. The current Protocol[5] implementing the Agreement expires on 20 December 2026.

(2) On 31 March 2026, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Republic of Mauritius for a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (hereinafter the 'Agreement'), together with an implementing Protocol (2026-2030) (hereinafter the 'Protocol'). The negotiations were successfully concluded and resulted in the initialling of the Agreement and Protocol on 4 September 2026.

(3) The aim of the Agreement and the 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 Agreement and the Protocol should therefore be signed.

(5) In view of economic importance of Union fishing activity in Mauritius' fishing zone and the need to limit, as much as possible, the duration of any interruption of that activity, the Agreement and the Protocol should be applied on a provisional basis, pending the completion of the procedures necessary for its entry into force.

(6) As the Protocol covers more than one financial year, the related budgetary commitments may be broken down into annual instalments over the duration of the

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

[5] OJ L 338, 30.12.2022, p. 6.

Protocol, in accordance with Article 112(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(3)].

(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[(4)] and delivered an opinion on [date],

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing, of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its implementing Protocol (2026-2030) between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of that Agreement and implementing Protocol[6].

Article 2

The Agreement and Protocol shall be applied on a provisional basis, in accordance with Article 20 of the Agreement and Article 11 of the Protocol, as from the date of its signature, pending entry into force[7].

Article 3

Entry into force

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President
[...]

(3) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj

(4) 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, pp. 39-98, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj

6 The text of the Agreement is published in OJ L …, ELI: …

7 The date from which the Agreement will be applied on a provisional basis will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

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 signing, 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 by Union fishing vessels in third country waters

1.3. Objective(s)

1.3.1. *General objective(s)*

The negotiation and conclusion of 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. 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 No 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.

ABM/ABB activity concerned

08 05 01 – Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities by Union fishing vessels in third country waters

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 new SFPA 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 Protocol will create fishing opportunities for Union vessels in Mauritius' fishing zone.

The SFPA and the 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 SFPA and the 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**[1]

☐ **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 SFPA and Protocol will apply provisionally from the date of signature in order to reduce the time during which fishing operations are not possible.

The new SFPA and 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 SFPA 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] As referred to in Article 58(2), point (a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

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 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 SFPA and 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*

[…]

1.6. **Duration of the proposal/initiative and of its financial impact**

☑ **limited duration**

☑ in effect from 2026 to 2029.

☑☐ financial impact from 2026 to 2029 for commitment appropriations and from 2026 to 2030 for payment appropriations.

☐ **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.

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 Agreement and the 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 the 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 delegations 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(3).	from EFTA countries(4)	from candidate countries and potential candidates(5)	from other third countries	other assigned revenue
	08.05.01 Establishing a governance framework for fishing activities carried out by European Union fishing vessels in third country waters (SFPA)	Diff.	NO	NO	NO	NO

3.2. **Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations**

3.2.1. *Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations*

(3) Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.
(4) EFTA: European Free Trade Association.
(5) Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of operational appropriations

X The proposal/initiative requires the use of operational appropriations, as explained below:

3.2.1.1. *Appropriations from voted budget*

EUR (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 2026-2029**
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[6]							
TOTAL appropriations for DG MARE	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**

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Number				
	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	Year **2028**	Year **2029**	**TOTAL MFF 2026-2029**

[6] 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)	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 of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	0	0	0	0	**0**
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 (to three decimal places)

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

Indicate objectives and outputs			Year 2026	Year 2027	Year 2028	Year 2029	**TOTAL**
	OUTPUTS						

□	Type[8]	Average cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Number	Cost	Total number	Total cost
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1[9]…												
- Access				200 000		200 000		200 000		200 000		800 000
- Sectoral				500 000		500 000		500 000		500 000		2 000 000
- Output												
Subtotal for specific objective No 1												
TOTALS				700 000		700 000		700 000		700 000		**2 800 000**

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:

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.

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

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

[9] As described in point 1.4.2 'Specific objective(s) …'

3.2.5. *Overview of estimated impact on digital technology-related investments*

The digital solutions used for the implementation of the Protocol already exist and are already being implemented for the previous Protocol and other fisheries agreements, as well as the implementation of Regulations 1224/2009 and 2403/2017. Investments in maintaining and improving the functionality of these digital tools are not specific to this Protocol.

3.2.6. *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).

The proposal/initiative is compatible the current multiannual financial framework. The use of the reserve line 30.020200 is foreseen for the amounts mentioned in paragraph 3.2.1.1.

☐ 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.

☐ requires a revision of the MFF.

3.2.7. *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 **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	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 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[19]			
		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**

[19] 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.

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 Chapter III and Appendix 3)	The master must record catch data on a daily basis in an electronic fishing logbook integrated into an electronic recording and reporting system (ERS).	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