



2024/0159M(NLE)

29.1.2025

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Fisheries

on a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Implementing Protocol (2024-2029) to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (12475/2024 – C10-0108/2024 – 2024/0159M(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Udo Bullmann

PA_NonLeg

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Development submits the following to the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible:

Amendment 1

Motion for a resolution
Citation 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

– *having regard to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication,*

Amendment 2

Motion for a resolution
Recital D a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Da. whereas artisanal catches are not sufficient to supply the local markets; whereas overexploitation of small pelagic species remains an urgent problem in terms of food security for the local population; whereas the increased production of fishmeal, which is produced mostly from small pelagic species, either on land in fishmeal plants or directly on factory ships, is one of the main factors contributing to the overexploitation of these stocks in the region; whereas there is a lack of transparency about who supplies these fishmeal plants and who their beneficial owners are;

Amendment 3

Motion for a resolution

Recital H

Motion for a resolution

H. whereas the first fisheries agreement between the European Economic Community and Guinea-Bissau dates back to 1980; whereas the previous Protocol to the agreement expired on 14 June 2024; whereas the results achieved under the development cooperation component of the agreements (i.e. sectoral support) are not satisfactory overall; whereas improvements have nonetheless been recorded as regards capacity for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and sanitary inspection, as well as Guinea-Bissau's involvement in regional fisheries bodies; whereas sectoral cooperation needs to be stepped up in order to better promote the development of the local fisheries sector and related industries and activities so as to ensure that a greater proportion of the added value created through exploitation of the country's natural resources remains in Guinea-Bissau;

Amendment

H. whereas the first fisheries agreement between the European Economic Community and Guinea-Bissau dates back to 1980; whereas the previous Protocol to the agreement expired on 14 June 2024; whereas the results achieved under the development cooperation component of the agreements (i.e. sectoral support) are not satisfactory overall; whereas improvements have nonetheless been recorded as regards capacity for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and sanitary inspection, as well as Guinea-Bissau's involvement in regional fisheries bodies; whereas sectoral cooperation ***with local coastal communities*** needs to be stepped up in order to better promote the development of the local fisheries sector and related industries and activities so as to ensure that a greater proportion of the added value created through exploitation of the country's natural resources remains in Guinea-Bissau;

Amendment 4

Motion for a resolution

Recital I

Motion for a resolution

I. whereas development of the fisheries sector in Guinea-Bissau calls for the establishment of basic ***infrastructure***, such as ports, landing sites, storage facilities and processing plants, which are still lacking or are being built by other third countries competing with the EU, with the aim of attracting landings of fish caught in Guinea-Bissau waters;

Amendment

I. whereas development of the fisheries sector in Guinea-Bissau calls for the establishment of basic ***and functioning*** infrastructure, such as ports, landing sites, storage facilities and processing plants, which are still lacking or are being built by other third countries competing with the EU, with the aim of attracting landings of fish caught in Guinea-Bissau waters;

Amendment 5

Motion for a resolution

Recital L

Motion for a resolution

L. whereas there is a need to ensure that a greater proportion of the added value generated through exploitation of fishery resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone remains in the country;

Amendment

L. whereas there is a need to ensure that a greater proportion of the added value generated through exploitation of fishery resources in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone remains in the country; ***whereas the EU should encourage local authorities to apply this recommendation to EU vessels but also to foreign fleets operating in Guinea-Bissau's fishing zone;***

Amendment 6

Motion for a resolution

Recital M

Motion for a resolution

M. whereas direct job creation in the fisheries sector in Guinea-Bissau is uncommon and limited, even in the case of local crew members on board vessels and women working and earning their living in the fisheries sector;

Amendment

M. whereas direct job creation in the fisheries sector in Guinea-Bissau is uncommon and limited, even in the case of local crew members on board vessels and women working and earning their living in the fisheries sector; ***whereas a significant proportion of the sectoral support should be allocated to support artisanal fishery, women processors and local trade;***

Amendment 7

Motion for a resolution

Recital N

Motion for a resolution

N. whereas, by comparison with the previous Protocol, the number of seafarers to be signed on in the EU fleet has increased significantly; whereas EU vessel owners must endeavour to sign on

Amendment

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additional Guinea-Bissau seafarers; whereas the Guinea-Bissau authorities must draw up and keep up to date an indicative list of qualified seafarers who could be signed on to EU vessels, and sectoral support may be provided for training local seafarers in accordance with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) standards;

additional Guinea-Bissau seafarers; whereas the Guinea-Bissau authorities must draw up and keep up to date an indicative list of qualified seafarers who could be signed on to EU vessels, and sectoral support may be provided for training local seafarers in accordance with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) standards, *as well as for promoting local surveillance and controls in order to protect the artisanal fisheries sector*;

Amendment 8

Motion for a resolution Recital O a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Oa. *whereas the SFPA encourages the establishment of joint fishing ventures between EU and local companies; whereas despite being an important source of seafood supply to the EU market and consumers, complying with the same health and sanitary standards as EU companies and respecting international conventions, such joint ventures nonetheless compete with the small-scale fisheries sector;*

Amendment 9

Motion for a resolution Recital O b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ob. *whereas using flags of convenience (the practice of registering vessels in countries with weak rules that have no association with the nationality of the vessel's owner or operator) and flag hopping (the practice of repeated and rapid reflagging to avoid rules and restrictions that limit activities) increase*

the risks of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and avoid accountability;

Amendment 10

Motion for a resolution Recital O c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Oc. whereas transparency – the open and accessible sharing of information about vessels, fishing activities and fisheries management practices – enables accountability and equitable access to marine resources; whereas a lack of transparency around foreign boats that join local fleets makes it impossible to track how much fish they are extracting;

Amendment 11

Motion for a resolution Recital O d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Od. whereas access to beneficial ownership information is crucial for law enforcement to be able to uncover illegal fishing, reveal concealed networks and identify the individuals and companies benefiting from these activities by tracing the flow of profits;

Amendment 12

Motion for a resolution Recital S

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

S. whereas Parliament must be kept closely informed at all stages of the

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procedures concerning the Protocol or its renewal;

procedures concerning the Protocol, **any changes to it**, or its renewal;

Amendment 13

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Notes the importance of the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPA, both for Guinea-Bissau and for EU fleets operating in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone; emphasises that there could be more effective fisheries cooperation between the EU and Guinea-Bissau and reiterates its call on the Commission to take every step required to make the new Protocol on implementing the agreement more ambitious than its predecessors so as to ensure that this SFPA leads to a satisfactory level of development of the local fisheries sector in overall terms and is consistent with the objectives referred to in UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

Amendment

1. Notes the importance of the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPA, both for Guinea-Bissau and for EU fleets operating in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone; emphasises that there could be more effective fisheries cooperation between the EU and Guinea-Bissau and reiterates its call on the Commission to take every step required to make the new Protocol on implementing the agreement more ambitious **and clearer** than its predecessors so as to ensure that this SFPA leads to a satisfactory level of development of the local fisheries sector in overall terms **and increased added value for coastal communities, does not undermine their food security and sovereignty** and is consistent with the objectives referred to in UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development **and with the development objectives set out in Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**;

Amendment 14

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1a. Encourages the Commission to develop a more ambitious partnership agreement facilitating the export of

fishery products that are sustainably processed on the African continent, provided it does not undermine the food security of the local population;

Amendment 15

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Considers that the objectives of the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPAs have been realised to varying degrees: while the agreement has offered and still provides considerable fishing opportunities for **EU** vessels in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone, in view of the considerable use made of those opportunities by European vessel owners, the same cannot be said of the local fisheries sector, whose development remains insufficient or unsatisfactory overall;

Amendment

2. Considers that the objectives of the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPAs have been realised to varying degrees: while the agreement has offered and still provides considerable fishing opportunities for vessels **from several EU Member States** in the Guinea-Bissau fishing zone, in view of the considerable use made of those opportunities by European vessel owners, the same cannot be said of the local fisheries sector, whose development remains insufficient or unsatisfactory overall; **recalls that Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest, most unstable and least developed countries in the region;**

Amendment 16

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2a. Advocates for infrastructure to be developed and fishery products to be exploited so as to ensure tangible results for local and artisanal fisheries, prioritising their needs and supporting infrastructure development and market access;

Amendment 17

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses that, in Article 3, the Protocol contains a non-discrimination clause whereby Guinea-Bissau undertakes not to grant more favourable technical conditions to other foreign fleets operating in Guinea-Bissau's fishing zone that have the same characteristics and target the same species; calls on the Commission to closely follow EU fisheries agreements with third countries in Guinea-Bissau's fishing zone; supports the Commission's precautionary approach in setting TACs at 0 GRT for small-pelagic trawlers, but questions the ability of stakeholders to enforce an equivalent obligation for third-party-flagged fleets;

Amendment 18

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Welcomes the contribution of EU vessels to food security in Guinea-Bissau through direct landings, as specified in Chapter V of the Annex to the Protocol, for the benefit of local communities and to promote internal fish trade and consumption, while deploring the fact that the tonnage involved is low;

Amendment 19

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Amendment

4. Stresses that, in Article 3, the Protocol contains a non-discrimination clause whereby Guinea-Bissau undertakes not to grant more favourable technical conditions to other foreign fleets operating in Guinea-Bissau's fishing zone that have the same characteristics and target the same species; calls on the Commission to closely follow ***and constantly monitor*** EU fisheries agreements with third countries in Guinea-Bissau's fishing zone; supports the Commission's precautionary approach in setting TACs at 0 GRT for small-pelagic trawlers, but questions the ability of stakeholders to enforce an equivalent obligation for third-party-flagged fleets;

Amendment

5. Welcomes the contribution of EU vessels to food security in Guinea-Bissau through direct landings, as specified in Chapter V of the Annex to the Protocol, for the benefit of local communities and to promote internal fish trade and consumption, while deploring the fact that the tonnage involved is low, ***with 94 tonnes reported in 2022;***

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5a. *Notes that the main problem facing the small-scale fisheries sector is the lack of infrastructure for landing, preserving and processing fishery products; recalls that small-scale fisheries make a major contribution to food security, with fish being the main source of protein available at an affordable price; stresses that the long-term food security needs of the local population should be prioritised and highlights the importance of maintaining sustainable fish stocks to ensure food security for coastal communities; recalls that 97 % of the stocks fished in Guinea-Bissau are landed in other countries; encourages European vessels, therefore, to land at least 2 % in Guinea-Bissau, for the local population;*

Amendment 20

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 b (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5b. *Welcomes the fact that the preamble to the Guinea-Bissau-EU Protocol, for the first time in an SFPA, refers to the FAO voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries; underlines that their inclusion in the Protocol text shows the determination of both parties to make this sector a priority; notes, however, that artisanal fishing communities were not consulted at any stage in the process of drawing up the new Protocol; stresses that the EU's commitment to supporting the local fisheries sector in Guinea-Bissau entails involving them in identifying priorities for the use of sectoral support funds;*

Amendment 21

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 5 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5c. Calls on the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Commission to improve the participation of coastal and small-scale fishing communities during the implementation of the new Protocol, notably ahead of the Joint Committee meetings;

Amendment 22

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 8 – point d

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

(d) strengthen the capacities of local artisanal operators in the fisheries sector by supporting fishers' organisations and cooperatives of women processors and wholesale fish merchants;

(d) strengthen the capacities of local artisanal operators in the fisheries sector by supporting **and training** fishers' organisations and cooperatives of women processors and wholesale fish merchants, **in order to help them combat malnutrition;**

Amendment 23

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10. Urges the Commission and Member States, in their cooperation and official development assistance policies, to take into account the fact that the **European Development Fund (EDF)** and sectoral support provided for in the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPA should complement each other and be fully coordinated, with a

10. Urges the Commission and Member States, in their cooperation and official development assistance policies, to take into account the fact that the **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, including its 2021-2027 multiannual indicative programme**, and

view to strengthening the local fisheries sector;

sectoral support provided for in the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPA should complement each other and be fully coordinated, with a view to strengthening the local fisheries sector *and ensuring food security for coastal communities*;

Amendment 24

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10a. Stresses that the training of artisanal fishers, especially women, is a necessary condition for the development of the local fisheries sector; calls for the EU to also use sectoral support funds for this purpose;

Amendment 25

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14a. Recalls that Guinea-Bissau is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change; calls for the conservation of marine ecosystems, funding for efforts to combat coastal erosion, and broad mitigation measures to address the impact of climate change on fisheries;

Amendment 26

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 17 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17a. Stresses that Guinea-Bissau's GDP is heavily reliant on its marine resources; highlights the importance of

supporting scientific assessments of fish stocks and ensuring that catch limits and quotas are adhered to in order to remain within sustainable limits and prevent the depletion of marine resources;

Amendment 27

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 17 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17b. *Encourages the Commission to promote the use of sectoral support to enhance surveillance and controls, and to develop scientific lab-based research on stocks in order to train local workers to EU standards on hygiene, fish processing and packaging; stresses that training is a long-term investment for the development of the local blue economy and the fish trade, and for the protection of local businesses and the environment;*

Amendment 28

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 21 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

21a. *Calls for the EU to address the lack of transparency in the fishing sector in Guinea-Bissau which results from, among other things, flags of convenience, flag hopping, complex corporate structures and a lack of public information on beneficial owners; recalls that robust and reliable data, as well as transparent information, is needed to calculate the available surplus; recalls that IUU fishing damages food security and the livelihoods of people in coastal countries as well as the oceans' ecosystems; notes with concern that Guinea-Bissau is fast emerging as a flag*

of convenience country, which hampers the fight against IUU fishing; notes that selling boats to joint ventures that are majority-owned by local partners is one of the main ways in which foreign companies can access the flags of western African countries; calls for the EU to limit flags of convenience and reflagging, as a means of combating IUU fishing and ensuring compliance with high sustainability standards; urges, equally, the Member States to continue to promote transparency of corporate structures;

Amendment 29

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 26

Motion for a resolution

26. Calls on the Commission, when assessing and renegotiating SFPAs, to determine whether all provisions of Chapter VIII of the Annex have been implemented, in particular the provisions on pay actually received by local fishers; calls on the Commission to propose corrective measures where not all of those provisions have been complied with;

Amendment

26. ***Welcomes the new SFPA social provision introduced by the Commission; recalls the need for fishers from countries in the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States who are working on EU vessels to be treated equally;*** calls on the Commission, when assessing and renegotiating SFPAs, to determine whether all provisions of Chapter VIII of the Annex have been implemented, in particular the provisions on pay actually received by local fishers; calls on the Commission to propose corrective measures where not all of those provisions have been complied with;

Amendment 30

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 30

Motion for a resolution

30. Calls on the Commission and on the Guinea-Bissau authorities to provide more detailed information on the

Amendment

30. Calls on the Commission and on the Guinea-Bissau authorities to provide more detailed information on the

development of forage fishing activities in the region, in particular activities by third-country vessels;

development of forage fishing activities in the region, in particular activities by third-country vessels *or vessels from neighbouring countries*;

Amendment 31

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 31

Motion for a resolution

31. Calls on the Commission to better incorporate Parliament's recommendations into the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPA and to take them into account *in* the procedures for renewal of the Protocol;

Amendment

31. Calls on the Commission to better incorporate Parliament's recommendations into the EU-Guinea-Bissau SFPA and to take them into account *during* the procedures for renewal of the Protocol, *for the sake of good governance and to ensure a balanced agreement based on trust*;

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The rapporteur for the opinion declares under his exclusive responsibility that he did not receive input from any entity or person to be mentioned in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION BY COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	28.1.2025
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Abir Al-Sahlani, Barry Andrews, Hildegard Bentele, Robert Biedroń, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Niels Geuking, György Hölvényi, Marc Jongen, Murielle Laurent, Reinhold Lopatka, Isabella Lövin, Thierry Mariani, Liudas Mažylis, Ana Miranda Paz, Tiago Moreira de Sá, Leire Pajín, Isabel Serra Sánchez, Kristoffer Storm
Substitutes present for the final vote	Anna-Maja Henriksson, Paolo Inselvini, Ondřej Kolář, Marit Maij, Carolina Morace, Cecilia Strada

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

23	+
ECR	Paolo Inselvini, Kristoffer Storm
PPE	Hildegard Bentele, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Niels Geuking, Ondřej Kolář, Reinhold Lopatka, Liudas Mažylis
PfE	György Hölvényi, Thierry Mariani, Tiago Moreira de Sá
Renew	Abir Al-Sahlani, Barry Andrews, Anna-Maja Henriksson
S&D	Robert Biedroń, Murielle Laurent, Marit Majj, Leire Pajín, Cecilia Strada
The Left	Carolina Morace, Isabel Serra Sánchez
Verts/ALE	Isabella Lövin, Ana Miranda Paz

0	-

1	0
ESN	Marc Jongen

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention