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ANNEX

**ANNEX**

**to the Recommendation for a**

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the  
conclusion of a protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the  
Government of the Republic of Liberia**

{SWD(2020) 196 final} - {SWD(2020) 197 final}

## ANNEX

### **Directives for the negotiation of new protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of Liberia**

The objective of the negotiations is the conclusion of a protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Liberia, in line with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup> and with the Council Conclusions of 19 March 2012<sup>2</sup> on the Commission Communication of 13 July 2011 on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy<sup>3</sup>.

With a view to ensuring, through this new Protocol, the promotion of sustainable and responsible fishing, the Commission's negotiation objectives shall be based on the following:

- Ensure access to the fishing zone of the Republic of Liberia and the necessary authorisations for vessels of the Union fleet to carry out fishing activities in that zone;
- Duly take into account the best available scientific advice and relevant management plans adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO), in order to ensure and enhance the environmental sustainability of fishing activities, directed exclusively at available surplus resources, taking into account the local fleet's fishing capacity, while paying special attention to the shared nature of the stocks concerned;
- Seek an appropriate share of the fisheries resources, commensurate with the Union fleets' interests, when they also interest other foreign fleets;
- Ensure that access to fisheries is based on the historical and the expected future activity of the Union fleet in the region, in the light of the most updated and best available scientific assessments;
- Continue dialogue in order to reinforce sectoral policy with a view to encouraging the implementation of a responsible fisheries policy that is environmentally and socially responsible, in connection with the country's development objectives - in particular as regards the governance, follow-up, control and monitoring of fishing activities and scientific advice - and taking into account the livelihood and interests of local fishing communities;
- Include a clause on the consequences of violations of human rights, fundamental labour rights and democratic principles;

In particular, the Protocol should define:

- the fishing opportunities, by category, to be granted to Union vessels,
- the financial compensation and the conditions for its payment, and
- the mechanisms for implementing sectoral support.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/agricult/129052.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/agricult/129052.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Communication from the commission to the European parliament, the council, the European economic and social committee and the committee of the regions Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy /\* COM/2011/0417 final \*/

On 23 May 2017, the Republic of Liberia was notified of the possibility of being identified as a non-cooperating third country in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by Commission Decision 2017/C 169/12<sup>4</sup> under Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Negotiations for the conclusion of a protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Liberia, in line with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 will only start once Commission Decision 2017/C 169/12 is reversed.

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<sup>4</sup> (2017/C 169/12), OJ 169/11, 30.5.2017, p. 11–16