

EU and Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement

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EU and Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement – amendment to Implementing Protocol

Commission Decision (EU) [2024/3135](#) of 17 December 2024 approving on behalf of the European Union, an amendment to the Protocol implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Update

The European Commission has approved an amendment to the landing and transshipment obligations in Mauritanian ports. EU vessels are now allowed to carry out transshipment or landing of their catches from Mauritanian waters in alternative ports if there are delays longer than 24 hours due to port congestion and lack of services.

Impacted products

Wild fish

What is changing?

A derogation (exception) from the landing and transshipment obligations in Mauritanian ports is now provided to European Union (EU) fishing vessels if the Mauritanian Coastal Guard delays more than 24 hours in providing consent for landing and transshipment.

Why?

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Mauritania includes an obligation for EU fishing vessels to land or tranship their catches under that Agreement in Mauritanian ports. However, due to port congestion and lack of technical and operational services, the Mauritanian Coastal Guard frequently delays more than 24 hours in providing consent for landing and transshipment, which puts the quality of EU fish catches at risk. This legislation aims to mitigate risks to the quality of EU fish catches.

Timeline

The Decision applies from **19 December 2024**.

Background

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) ensure consistency between the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and other European policies, including sustainable use of partner country resources; combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; integration of partner countries into the global economy; and better political and financial governance of fisheries.

The current SFPA between the EU and Mauritania and its Implementing Protocol were signed on 15 November 2021 for a duration of 6 years. Under the Protocol, the EU fleet is allowed to fish in Mauritanian waters for shrimp, demersal fish, tuna, and small pelagic fish, up to a total of 287,050 tonnes per year ([European Commission 2021](#)). The allocation of these fishing opportunities is specified in Regulation [2021/2061](#). Under the Implementing Protocol (Annex I, Chapter V), the EU fleet is obliged to land or tranship these catches in Mauritanian ports.

Resources

European Commission (2021) [Sustainable fisheries partnership agreement with Mauritania](#)

European Union (2021) [Partnership Agreement on sustainable fisheries between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania](#)

Council Decision (EU) [2022/1448](#) on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Council Regulation (EU) [2021/2061](#) on the allocation of fishing opportunities under the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2021–2026)

Sources

Commission Decision (EU) [2024/3135](#) approving on behalf of the European Union, an amendment to the Protocol implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

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