

THE LATEST ON EU AGRI-FOOD POLICIES IMPACTING LOW-INCOME & MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Extension of Fisheries Partnership Agreement between EU and Mauritius

Published by AGRINFO on 19 Jan 2023: Revised 09 Oct 2025

Fisheries Partnership Agreement between European Union and Republic of Mauritius – call for evidence

EU-Mauritius fisheries agreement – negotiation mandate for a new protocol

Update

This call for evidence feeds into an evaluation of the EU's Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) with Mauritius. The current 4-year implementing protocol (2022–2026) provides 85 EU Member State vessels access to Mauritian waters. It expires in December 2026. The evaluation will consider the operation of this protocol and its impacts on Mauritius, and will help shape the development of a new protocol.

Impacted products

Tuna

What is changing?

The European Commission is evaluating the impact of its FPA with Mauritius. This includes assessments of:

- developments in Mauritius' fisheries policy and the local fisheries sector
- the EU fleet's fishing activities and the impact of landings on fish trade.

The review will help the EU and Mauritius to draw conclusions on the performance of the current protocol and shape the agreement of a new protocol.





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Why?

The current 4-year Implementing Protocol for the FPA between Mauritius and the EU expires on 20 December 2026. After that date, the EU fleet cannot fish in Mauritian waters if there is no new protocol in place. Once agreed, the protocol should be implemented as soon as possible to minimise any interruption to trade. The FPA must also be renegotiated and updated to comply with the Common Fisheries Policy.

Timeline

The call for evidence closes on **27 October 2025**. The evaluation will be completed in the first half of 2026. The current 4-year Implementing Protocol expires on 20 December 2026.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

The consultation feeds into the evaluation and negotiations on a new implementing protocol. It aims to take stakeholders' views into account and ensure a fair and balanced deal for all parties. The evaluation will also consider regional aspects of the fisheries sector, including jobs linked to the fleets operating within the FPA, notably for the outermost region of La Réunion.

Recommended Actions

Stakeholders can give feedback through the European Commission's <u>Have Your Say</u> webpage until **27 October 2025**. Stakeholders wishing to respond must be registered. Those who do not already have an account will first need to <u>Create an EU login account</u>, then register their organisation on the <u>Transparency register</u>.

Background

The FPA between the EU and Mauritius entered into force on 28 January 2014 for a period of 6 years. Council Decision (EU) 2022/1846 extended the protocol by 6 months.

Under the current FPA, the EU provides a total financial contribution of €725,000 per year (European Commission). The agreement allows EU vessels to fish the surplus of the allowable catch in Mauritius waters, and contribute regular supplies of tuna to the local fish-processing industry. Mauritius is the third largest supplier of canned tuna to the EU market after Ecuador and the Philippines. Products exported from Mauritius enter the EU market duty-free and quota-free, provided they meet the rules of origin defined in the interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and certain Eastern and Southern Africa States (including





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Mauritius and the Seychelles) (European Commission 2021).

Resources

Council Decision (EU) <u>2022/1846</u> concerning the extension of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

European Commission (nd) Fisheries partnership agreement with Mauritius

European Commission (2021) <u>Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation study of the implementing protocol to the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius: final report. Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.</u>

<u>Protocol</u> implementing the fisheries partnership agreement between the EU and Mauritius (2022–2026)

Regulation <u>2022/2584</u> on the allocation of fishing opportunities under the Protocol implementing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Mauritius (2022–2026)

Sources

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