Extension of Fisheries Partnership Agreement between EU and Mauritius

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Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of the negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius

What is changing and why?

The European Commission recommends negotiating a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and Implementing Protocol between the European Union (EU) and Mauritius. The current 4-year implementing protocol (2022–2026) expires in December 2026.

The Commission recommends revising several elements of the agreement and protocol, as follows.

- Upgrade the legal framework from a Fisheries Partnership Agreement to an SFPA.
- Reduce the number of fishing authorisations available to EU vessels because the fishing opportunities have been underused – EU vessels have used fewer licences and caught fewer fish than allowed under the current protocol – the reference tonnage and EU access payment should be adjusted accordingly.
- Improve the employment conditions for non-EU seafarers on EU vessels in line with international labour standards – fewer Mauritian fishers have been employed on EU vessels than envisaged.
- Strengthen the design and monitoring of sectoral support, including clearer indicators and priorities – because its implementation has been slow and fragmented.
- Increase transparency and consultation with stakeholders on the use of sectoral support funds.
- Consider a 6-year duration for the protocol to provide greater stability.

Actions

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 upgraded to SFPA in compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy.

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Timeline

The European Commission seeks to open negotiations between the EU and Mauritius on a new SFPA and protocol before the current 4-year Implementing Protocol expires on 20 December 2026.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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