COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 563/2006

of 13 March 2006

concerning the conclusion of the Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Solomon Islands on fishing off Solomon Islands

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 37, in conjunction with Article 300(2) and the first subparagraph of Article 300(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament [1],

Whereas:

(1) The Community and Solomon Islands have negotiated and initialled a Partnership Fisheries Agreement providing Community fishermen with fishing opportunities in the waters over which Solomon Islands has sovereignty or jurisdiction in respect of fisheries.

(2) That Agreement provides for economic, financial, technical and scientific cooperation in the fisheries sector with a view to guaranteeing the conservation and sustainable exploitation of resources, as well as partnerships between undertakings aimed at developing economic activities in the fisheries sector and related activities in the common interest.

(3) That Agreement should be approved.

(4) The allocation of the fishing opportunities among the Member States should be defined.

(5) The Member States whose vessels fish under this Agreement are to notify the Commission of the quantities of each stock caught within the Solomon Islands fishing zone in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 500/2001 of 14 March 2001 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 on the monitoring of catches taken by Community fishing vessels in third country waters and on the high seas [2],

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Solomon Islands on fishing off Solomon Islands (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement) is hereby approved on behalf of the Community.

The text of the Agreement is attached to this Regulation.

Article 2

The fishing opportunities set out in the Protocol to the Agreement shall be allocated among the Member States as follows:

— Freezer tuna seiners:	Spain:	75 % of fishing possibilities available
	France:	25 % of fishing possibilities available
— Surface longliners:	Spain:	six vessels
	Portugal:	four vessels.

If licence applications from these Member States do not cover all the fishing opportunities fixed by the Protocol, the Commission may take into consideration licence applications from any other Member State.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 13 March 2006.

For the Council
The President
M. BARTENSTEIN

[1] Opinion delivered on 14 February 2006 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

[2] OJ L 73, 15.3.2001, p. 8.