Council Decision (EU) 2020/984 of 7 July 2020 on the conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024)

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2020/984

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on the conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43 thereof, in conjunction with point (a)(v) of the second subparagraph of Article 218(6) and Article 218(7),

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament[(1)],

Whereas:

(1) On 17 March 2008, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 241/2008[(2)], concluding the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau[(3)] ('the Agreement'). The Agreement entered into force on 15 April 2008, was tacitly renewed and remains in force.

(2) Following the Commission recommendation, the Council decided on 28 February 2017 to authorise the opening of negotiations with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for the conclusion of a new protocol implementing the Agreement.

(3) The previous protocol to the Agreement expired on 23 November 2017.

(4) The Commission has negotiated on behalf of the Union a new protocol. As a result of those negotiations the new protocol was initialled on 15 November 2018.

(5) In accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2019/1088[(4)], the Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024) ('the Protocol') was signed on 15 June 2019.

(6) The Protocol has been applied on a provisional basis from the date of its signature.

(7) The objective of the Protocol is to enable the Union and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to work more closely on promoting a sustainable fisheries policy, sound exploitation of fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau waters and efforts by Guinea-Bissau to develop a blue economy.

(8) The Protocol should be approved.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (EU) 2020/984. (See end of Document for details)*

(9) Article 10 of the Agreement establishes the Joint Committee responsible for monitoring its implementation. Furthermore, in accordance with that Article, and Article 5, Article 6(4), Article 7(4) and Article 8(2) and (4) of the Protocol, the Joint Committee may adopt certain modifications to the Protocol. In order to facilitate the approval of such amendments, the Commission should be authorised, subject to specific substantive and procedural conditions, to approve them on behalf of the Union under a simplified procedure.

(10) The Union position on the modifications to the Protocol should be established by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States. The proposed amendments will be accepted unless a blocking minority of the Member States in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Treaty on European Union objects in the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States.

(11) The position to be adopted by the Union in the Joint Committee on other matters should be determined in accordance with the Treaties and established forms of practice,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (2019-2024) is hereby approved on behalf of the Union[(5)].

Article 2

The President of the Council shall, on behalf of the Union, give the notification provided for in Article 17 of the Protocol.

Article 3

In accordance with the procedure laid down in the Annex to this Decision, the Commission shall be authorised to approve, on behalf of the Union, modifications to the Protocol to be adopted by the Joint Committee established under Article 10 of the Agreement.

Article 4

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 7 July 2020.

For the Council

The President

M.ROTH