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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION

**of the 2019-2024 Protocol to the Agreement on a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
between the European Union and the Republic of Senegal**

{SWD(2026) 5 final}

Under the external dimension of the EU's common fisheries policy (CFP)¹, the Commission is responsible for the negotiation of implementing protocols to sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) with non-EU countries, and for the implementation of those protocols.

SFPAs create a legal, environmental, economic and social governance framework for fishing activities carried out by EU fishing vessels in non-EU waters. In return, the EU pays financial compensation to the partner country for access to its waters and provides it with financial support for the implementation of a national strategy on fisheries and the blue economy. The EU contribution is supplemented by fees payable by EU vessel owners.

Before submitting a recommendation to the Council asking it to authorise the opening of negotiations for a successor protocol to a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement, the Commission arranges for independent *ex ante* and *ex post* evaluations of each protocol, in accordance with Article 31(10) of the CFP Basic Regulation¹.

This staff working document (SWD) contains an *ex post* evaluation of the application of the most recent implementing protocol ('the implementing protocol') to the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Senegal ('the Agreement'). These evaluations are based mainly on an independent evaluation carried out by an external consultant². The external consultant undertook extensive consultations with stakeholders in the EU and in Senegal. During the evaluation process, the consultant engaged in discussions with the European and Senegalese authorities to gather their views on the implementation of the 2019-2024 protocol.

The *ex post* evaluation covers the period up to March 2024, which is most of the period of application of the 2019-2024 implementing protocol. It provides an overall assessment of the implementing protocol, drawing conclusions on its effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and acceptance and on the EU added value of the intervention. The detailed issues raised by these evaluation criteria are set out in further detail in Section 4 of the evaluation report.

The external contractor's final report also presents an *ex ante* study evaluating the future of the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the EU and Senegal. However, in keeping with the EU's zero tolerance policy on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and considering the Commission's decision to pre-identify Senegal as a non-cooperating country in the fight against IUU fishing³, the Commission does not intend to recommend opening negotiations for a successor protocol. The Commission therefore does not, at this point, need to conduct and present its *ex ante* evaluation in this Commission staff working document.

This evaluation covers only the implementation of the 2019-2024 protocol to the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and Senegal. It is independent of the aforementioned Commission decision to pre-identify Senegal as a non-cooperating country in the fight against IUU fishing and cannot pre-empt potential developments in connection with that decision in the context of the application of the IUU Regulation.

¹Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy ([OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22](#)).

² *Évaluation rétrospective et prospective du protocole à l'accord de partenariat dans le domaine de la pêche durable entre l'Union Européenne et la République du Sénégal – Rapport final*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2771/806730>.

³ Commission Decision of 27 May 2024 as regards the notification to the Republic of Senegal of the possibility of being identified as a non-cooperating third country in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, C/2024/3319, OJ C, C/2024/3277, 29.5.2024.