



2026/0107(NLE)

22.10.2026

DRAFT BUDGETARY ASSESSMENT

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Fisheries

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2026-2030)
(09200/2026 – C10-0195/2026 – 2026/0107(NLE))

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PA_LegEvaluation

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The Committee on Budgets has carried out a budgetary assessment of the proposal under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure and has reached the following conclusions:

The Committee on Budgets,

- A. whereas the previous six-year Protocol with the Republic of Seychelles expired on 23 February 2026;
- B. whereas the annual financial contribution to the new Protocol for the duration of its four-year period is EUR 5 750 000, based on:
- (a) an annual amount of EUR 2 750 000, equivalent to a reference tonnage of 55 000 tonnes per year; and
 - (b) a specific annual sectoral support amount of EUR 3 000 000 to help implement Seychelles' sectoral fisheries policy;
- C. whereas the implementation of the Protocol requires the use of operational appropriations, as explained below:

DG MARE		Year 2026	Year 2027	Year 2028	Year 2029	TOTAL
Operational appropriations						
Budget line 08 05 01	Commitments	5.750	5.750	5.750	5.750	23.000
	Payments	5.750	5.750	5.750	5.750	23.000

EUR million (to three decimal places);

- D. whereas on 15 July 2026, Parliament approved DEC 10/2026 submitted by the Commission on 9 June 2026, which makes available the necessary appropriations on operational line 08 05 01 to honour the 2026 financial obligations resulting from the new Protocol;
- E. whereas the new Protocol with the Republic of Seychelles has been signed and entered into provisional application on 27 July 2026;
1. Notes that the support allocated under the Protocol should meet the objectives of enabling Union vessels to fish in Seychelles' fishing zone, promoting sustainable fisheries and the responsible exploitation of fishery resources, and strengthening cooperation between the Union and Seychelles on the development and implementation of Seychelles' fisheries policy, ocean governance and cooperation within the Indian

Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); considers that there should be thorough scrutiny to ensure that the sectoral support meets these objectives effectively during the implementation of the Protocol; recalls that the support has a direct link to the principles of the Samoa Agreement¹ that strengthens the Union's external action with regard to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and takes account, in particular, of the Union's objectives with regard to democratic principles and human rights, and to strengthening the EU's presence in the region and cooperating within the strategic partnership between the Union and Seychelles;

2. Notes that the Commission estimates EUR 23 million in commitment appropriations (CA) and EUR 23 million in payment appropriations (PA) over the four-year period on budget line 08 05 01, with EUR 11 million corresponding to access payments and EUR 12 million to sectoral support; considers that Parliament should be provided, in the context of the annual budgetary procedure and budget implementation reporting, with sufficiently detailed information on the commitments and payments relating to the two components;
3. Notes that the transfer of EUR 5 750 000 in commitment appropriations and of EUR 2 750 000 in payment appropriations, as submitted by the Commission in DEC 10/2026, has been approved by the budgetary authority within the time limit provided for in the Financial Regulation²; regrets that the decision on this budgetary matter is disconnected from, and has to be taken prior to, the decision on the consent to be given by Parliament to the new Protocol; underlines that decisions on the agreement itself and related budgetary matters are inextricably linked, and fears, therefore, that the disconnect de facto risks pre-empting the decision on consent and creating a fait accompli; urges the Commission, therefore, to ensure that such a situation does not arise again in the future;
4. Recommends that, for future agreements, an impact assessment of the added value and socio-economic benefits derived from the previous agreement be taken into account; considers that this assessment should guide the negotiation and renewal of subsequent agreements to ensure that they align with the objectives of sustainable development and efficient use of the Union's financial resources;
5. Notes that the 2026 budget includes amounts of EUR 39 661 857 in CA and EUR 44 536 857 in PA on operational line 08 05 01, as well as amounts of EUR 114 190 000 in CA and EUR 85 890 000 in PA on reserve line 30 02 02; regrets that the amounts are cumulative and not broken down by fisheries agreement, thus making it difficult for Parliament to scrutinise budget implementation in this field;
6. Concludes that the Committee on Budgets is in a position to advise the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to recommend approval of the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the

¹ Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part (OJ L, 2023/2862, 28.12.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2023/2862/oj).

² Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>).

European Union and the Republic of Seychelles (2026-2030).