

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002737/25
to the Commission
Oihane Agirregoitia Martínez (Renew)
(4 July 2025)**

Subject: New generation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements under the Ocean Pact

On 11 June 2025, the Commission presented the Ocean Pact. The adopted text is a targeted and coordinated overview of EU ocean policy. According to the Commission's communication, the pact will 'propose a new generation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) aligning with the EU's wider regional strategies and priorities, most notably for Africa and the Indo-Pacific, to contribute to a coherent EU approach for sustainable fisheries and ocean governance'. As part of this approach, a study of existing agreements will be conducted that is expected to take approximately one year.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission considering moving forward with new SFPAs with third countries?
2. Will the study delay the pursuit of new SFPAs?
3. Could the Commission specify what other implications the proposed 'new generation of agreements' will have?

Submitted: 4.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2025)**

The European Ocean Pact⁽¹⁾, adopted in June 2025, announced for 2026 a Commission communication on EU fisheries external action to strengthen international ocean governance.

Among its key actions is a new generation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) that aligns with the EU's regional strategies and priorities. The purpose of this initiative is to rethink the existing framework of SFPAs, including a reassessment of regional approaches and the criteria for the establishment of any new SFPAs.

Until 2026, the Commission will focus on developing the new generation of SFPAs and concluding already planned negotiations. The Commission does not plan to engage in negotiations for new SFPAs with new partners for the time being.

On 7 July 2025, the Commission published a call for evidence seeking views on how EU external action can strengthen the sustainability of EU external fisheries and promote enhanced governance. It is available on the Commission 'Have Your Say' ⁽²⁾ website. The deadline for submissions is 15 September 2025.

The feedback received in the call for evidence and through targeted consultations of stakeholders in the Fisheries and Ocean Dialogues will complement the input received in the public consultation on the evaluation of the common fisheries policy (January to April 2025) and will inform the development of the new generation of SFPAs. Since this work is ongoing, the Commission cannot yet offer more information on the exact specifications.

The Commission commissioned an evaluation study of the SFPAs covering data from 2015-2020. This study ⁽³⁾ is available on the Publications Office website of the EU and will inform the development of a new generation of SFPAs. The Commission will not conduct an additional study for this purpose.

⁽¹⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/european-ocean-pact_en.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14633-EU-strategy-for-fisheries-external-action_en.

⁽³⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/21927e4c-2f4d-11ee-9e98-01aa75ed71a1>.