

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001461/26
to the Commission
Siegbert Frank Droese (ESN)
(9 April 2026)**

Subject: Dormant sustainable fisheries partnership agreements

At a recent event co-organised by the Long-Distance Advisory Council and the European Economic and Social Committee entitled ‘How should the next generation of EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) look like? A multistakeholder perspective’, it was mentioned that many SFPAs are actually dormant.

1. Is it true that a total of nine SFPAs (namely those concluded with Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, the Solomon Islands, Seychelles and The Gambia) are now dormant?
2. How would the Commission describe this state of ‘dormancy’, and can it confirm whether the EU fishing fleet has completely ceased fishing operations in the waters under the jurisdictions of each partner country?
3. What concrete measures is the Commission undertaking to reactive these SFPAs?

Submitted: 9.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(21 May 2026)**

The Commission confirms that the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Micronesia, Morocco ⁽¹⁾, Mozambique, Senegal, the Solomon Islands, Seychelles, and The Gambia are currently dormant.

The reasons behind dormant SFPAs vary. In some cases, it relates to the pre-identification or identification of SFPA partner countries as non-cooperating in fighting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing (yellow or red cards) ⁽²⁾. In other cases, it might reflect divergent objectives and interests.

It can also be caused by delays in finalising the negotiations of the next protocol, despite best efforts by the EU negotiators to avoid interruption periods ⁽³⁾.

The EU fishing fleet is bound to cease its fishing operations in the waters subject to dormant agreements in view of the exclusivity clause. Moreover, EU vessels cannot enter into private agreements with the partner country, even if the agreement becomes dormant.

The Commission intends to address the issue of dormant agreements in the context of the upcoming new generation of SFPAs, which will be part of a broader strategy expected to be presented in autumn 2026, together with the Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture.

It aims to find the right balance between promoting ocean governance and giving the EU fleet the opportunity to compete fairly with third countries’ fleets.

⁽¹⁾ On 20 January 2026, the Council adopted the decision authorising the opening of negotiations for the agreement and its implementing protocol. The Commission is actively preparing to initiate negotiations. Any new Agreement must comply with the judgment of the European Court of Justice Judgment of 4 October 2024 in Joined Cases C-778/21 P and C-798/21 P.

⁽²⁾ Liberia, Senegal.

⁽³⁾ The Seychelles is one such example.