

Position on the EU-Senegal Fisheries agreement

Senegal and the EU have signed a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and its implementing protocol for 5 years.

Compared to priorities that we had established in our memorandum in November 2013, we would like to make the following first comments:

1. Transparency and participation of stakeholders

It is for us the main failure of the negotiation of this agreement. Professionals of small scale fisheries have neither been consulted nor admitted to the negotiations as observers.

We are therefore surprised that with no such consultation with the small scale sector, it has been decided that support to our sector from the agreement would primarily be directed to marine protected areas and protection of mangroves. These two sectors, even if they surely participate in the enhancement of biodiversity and protection of the ecosystem, fall under the responsibility of the department in charge on the environment and protection of nature.

Other priorities exist for professionals, men and women of the sector, especially in terms of fight against IUU fishing (which is yet highlighted by both parties as an objective of the agreement. It would therefore be to take measures to:

- Eradicate the use of nylon mono filament
- Popularize de Senegal fisheries code in order to settle a regulatory framework which guarantees sustainable fisheries
- Reinforce the endowment of the Funding Fund for small scale fisheries which enhances its functioning

All of this is included in the Inter-ministerial Council's conclusions and recommendations on fisheries of June the 18th 2013.

Administration being in continuity, we reckon that it should be referred to this document in order to indentify and choose priority actions to implement with the financial support given by the present fisheries agreement.

Therefore,

- We require entire transparency on the way priorities have been decided
- We ask to be consulted on the way sectoral support from this agreement will be allocated and managed benefiting the sector

The agreement also notes that sectoral support could be linked with a support from the European development fund (EDF). It is as such a good thing but this should be done in the greatest transparency. We require to participate as observers in joint committees meetings which will be discussing of the implementation of the agreement and the possible links between EDF.

2. Access to resources

We are glad that no access has been negotiated for **small pelagics** whereas these vessels operate in the region, which already has an impact on our resources, since these are shared resources. The protocol says that Senegal commits “not to grant more favorable conditions to other foreign fleets”. This is the confirmation for us that Senegal will not give licenses to foreign fleets for small pelagic

During negotiations, we were worried about access proposed for **hake**. We disagree with the opening of this fishery in the protocol: two Spanish trawlers will fish the hake with cephalopods and demersal by-catches during the first year of the agreement. This access would be reviewed after the first year following the meeting of the joint scientific committee. We insist that professionals be implied in the works of the joint committee which will decide of conditions of exploratory fishing, plus in the evaluation which will be done, since we think that right now impacts of this fishery (targeted catches and by-catches) on Senegalese small scale fishery are not duly taken into account.

Regarding **high sea pelagic species**, meaning tropical tunas, it is a fishery practiced in the entire Atlantic Ocean and the management of which is in the hands of the Regional fisheries organizations ICCAT. Access conditions in the agreement must apply ICCAT's recommendations We would like to underline that some provisions like the reporting of catches data in real time or the boarding of observers are important. If such systems are put in place for tuna, they should be extended to other fleets operating at the present time in Senegal in the greatest opacity.

3. Joint ventures

We are very worried of the content of article 10 entitled “Cooperation amongst professional organizations, private sector and civil society”. First because cooperation between these actors cannot be achieved in a context where we are neither informed nor involved in the negotiating process.

Then, because (art. 10.3) it is said that parties will promote creation of joint ventures. Joint ventures operating in Senegal, including with European partners, operate in the greatest opacity. It is certainly not a model to be promoted.