

Advice

Possible EU-Angola Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA)

Brussels, 30 March 2023

1. Background

On behalf of the EU, the European Commission negotiates and concludes Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with non-EU countries allowing EU vessels to fish for surplus stocks in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of third countries¹.

At present, some EU Member States have vessels fishing in Angolan waters under direct authorisations. The Commission will be undertaking an ex-ante evaluation aimed at assessing the opportunity and appropriateness to conclude a SFPA with the Republic of Angola, which would replace the direct authorisations. The Commission hired an external consultancy company to assist in the mentioned evaluation.

The Market Advisory Council (MAC) is supportive, in principle, of a SFPA/Protocol with Angola, instead of direct authorisations, and would like to put forward some advice, with a market and trade perspective, on the possible EU-Angola SFPA².

2. Market supply and trade

Considering the applicable trade rules, particularly rules of origin, the EU-Angola SFPA would have a positive implication in the provision of products, including processing, to the EU market, the local market, and the neighboring landing countries.

However, a more comprehensive partnership with Angola would be attained if Angola would join the SADCC Economic partnership agreement, which would in turn addition facilitate trade through cumulation of rules of origin with a number of neighboring countries, and eventually with other ACP countries in Africa. Additionally, Angola should be encouraged to enter into

¹ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/international-agreements/sustainable-fisheries-partnership-agreements-sfpas_en

² In a previous opportunity, in the context of the Commission's roadmap on the evaluation of SFPAs, advice was delivered on SFPAs: <https://marketac.eu/evaluation-of-sustainable-fisheries-partnership-agreements/>

sanitary harmonisation which would permit to the competent sanitary authority in Angola to receive approval from the European Commission. Sanitary compliance would be an additional step to facilitate trade of fish caught under the SFPA.

The EU and Angola are both contracting parties of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Therefore, the EU and Angola should respond favourably to the resolutions adopted by ICCAT aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the stock in the Atlantic Ocean. The respect for these resolutions provides consumers with the guarantee of access to sustainably managed fish.

In the context of the fight against IUU fishing, the Protocol of the EU-Angola SFPA must include a chapter that guarantees the alignment of Angola with the EU legislation on IUU.

3. Recommendations

In the context of a possible EU-Angola SFPA, from a market and trade perspective, the MAC believes that the European Commission should:

- a) Proceed with the negotiation and conclusion of the mentioned SFPA;
- b) In the scope of the ex-ante evaluation and of the possible SFPA/Protocol, cover the fight against IUU fishing, transparency, and a more even playing field between the various fishing fleets operating in the partner country's waters;
- c) Reflect the considerations present in the advice adopted on 9 March 2021 on "Roadmap on the Evaluation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)"³, including market and trade aspects as well as social issues;
- d) Encourage Angola to align with EU sanitary standards, with a view to having the competent authority in Angola approved by the EU;
- e) Ensure respect for the resolutions adopted by ICCAT;
- f) Include a chapter in the Protocol that guarantees the alignment of Angola with the EU legislation on IUU fishing.

³ <https://marketac.eu/evaluation-of-sustainable-fisheries-partnership-agreements/>