



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 19.07.1995
COM(95) 378 final

95/ 0195 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters
concerning the shortening by one year of the duration of the Agreement on relations
in the sea fisheries sector between the European Economic Community
and the Kingdom of Morocco

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The fisheries agreement between the Community and Morocco was concluded in May 1992 for a period of four years, i.e. from 1 May 1992 to 30 April 1996.

Article 15(2) of the current agreement provides for a mid-term review to enable the parties to consider, after two years of application, implementation of the agreement and the fishing opportunities.

After three rounds of meetings as part of the mid-term review, the parties came to a deadlock. Morocco, referring to the present socio-economic crisis in its fisheries sector and its concern about overfishing, requested a substantial reduction in the fishing opportunities currently granted to the Community. In the Community's opinion, the reductions requested went way beyond the spirit and the letter of the Agreement.

At its meeting of 28 September 1994, the Council invited the Commission to initiate the procedures for entering into negotiations in order to ensure the continuation of fishing by Community vessels in waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Morocco.

At a meeting within the framework of the mid-term review referred to in Article 15(2) of the Agreement held in Brussels on 13 October 1994, the two parties agreed to:

- terminate the mid-term review and limit the duration of the current Agreement to midnight on 30 April 1995. As a result, the last year of the Agreement will not be applied;
- enter into negotiations at the earliest opportunity on the possible conclusion of a new agreement for a period of three years from 1 May 1995.

For the above reasons, the Commission recommends that the Council should suspend the present Agreement from 1 May 1995 by means of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters.

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on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the shortening by one year of the duration of the Agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 43 taken together with the first subparagraph of Article 223(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas Article 15(2) of the Agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco, concluded in 1992 for a period of four years, provides for a mid-term review;

Whereas in the framework of that review the two parties agreed on 13 October 1994 to limit the duration of the Agreement to midnight on 30 April 1995 and to enter into the necessary negotiations at the earliest opportunity with a view to the possible conclusion of a new agreement for a period of three years from 1 May 1995,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the shortening by one year of the duration of the Agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco is hereby approved on behalf of the Community.

The text of the Agreement is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorized to designate the persons empowered to sign the Agreement in order to bind the Community.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

**Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters
on the termination of the Agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector
between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco
initialled at Brussels on 15 May 1992**

A. Letter from the Community

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco, initialled at Brussels on 15 May 1992 and to the minutes of the mid-term review meeting held in Brussels on 13 October 1994.

At that meeting the two parties agreed to terminate the validity of the present Agreement at midnight on 30 April 1995 and to enter into negotiations at the earliest opportunity on the possible conclusion of a new agreement for a period of three years from 1 May 1995.

The European Community hereby confirms that it agrees to limit the duration of the present Agreement to midnight on 30 April 1995 and that it is willing to negotiate a new agreement to enter into force as soon as possible.

I should be obliged if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm your agreement with its contents.

On behalf of the Council
of the European Union

**Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters
on the termination of the Agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector
between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco
initialled at Brussels on 15 May 1992**

B. Letter from the Government of Morocco

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco, initialled at Brussels on 15 May 1992 and to the minutes of the mid-term review meeting held in Brussels on 13 October 1994.

At that meeting the two parties agreed to terminate the validity of the present Agreement at midnight on 30 April 1995 and to enter into negotiations at the earliest opportunity on the possible conclusion of a new agreement for a period of three years from 1 May 1995.

The European Community hereby confirms that it agrees to limit the duration of the present Agreement to midnight on 30 April 1995 and that it is willing to negotiate a new agreement to enter into force as soon as possible.

I should be obliged if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm your agreement with its contents.

I have the honour to confirm that the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco agrees to limit the duration of the present Agreement to midnight on 30 April 1995 and that it is willing to negotiate a new agreement to enter into force as soon as possible.

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Morocco

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