



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE/B3/C1/ms

Dear Mr Farias,

I would like to thank the CC-RUP for its Recommendation n°60 on the agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles on the access of Seychellois fishing vessels to the waters of Mayotte. The agreement is currently in force and will apply until 2028. I take note of the importance CC-RUP attaches to this agreement and its willingness to contribute to the earlier stages of the negotiations.

Eight purse-seiners and two support vessels have been granted authorisations so far on a yearly basis, and since the start of the agreement. These opportunities follow the guidance of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) scientific advice regarding capacity and the management measures on non-targeted species. This includes the reduction of incidental catches of protected species, in particular all marine turtles and marine mammals, and of seabirds and reef fish.

This agreement ensures that the activities of the Seychelles fleet in Mayotte waters comply with UNCLOS and IOTC management measures for example on data collection, control of fishing activities.

This agreement considers the existence of the Mayotte marine protected area (MPA) and the current objectives of Mayotte in terms of fisheries management and development. In particular, it intends to support fisheries management in Mayotte and the sustainable development of the local fisheries sector via the financial contribution of the Seychelles shipowners to the environmental fund.

The partnership under this agreement is an important vehicle for advocating for further regional cooperation and effort toward sustainable fisheries management in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Ruben do Couto Farias

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Finally, the Commission recently launched a call for evidence ⁽¹⁾ on the new EU strategy for fisheries external action. This initiative follows our commitment under the European Ocean Pact, and I strongly encourage the CC-RUP to contribute. The call will be open until 15 September 2025.

Should you have any further questions on this reply, please do not hesitate to contact our coordinator of Advisory Councils, Ms Julia Rubeck (MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu) or our policy officer Ms Charlotte Gobin (Charlotte.GOBIN@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Daniela Costa (dcosta@ccrup.eu) and CC-RUP functional mailbox (info@ccrup.eu)

⁽¹⁾ Call for evidence on the new EU strategy for fisheries external action, open until 15/09/2025: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14633-EU-strategy-for-fisheries-external-action_en