

## **Minutes**

### **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement**

#### **European Union / The Cook Islands**

##### **Second round of negotiations on a SFPA and Protocol – 19 to 21 October 2015, Brussels**

Representatives from the European Union (EU) and the Cook Islands met from 19 to 21 October 2015 in Brussels, for the Second Round of Negotiations of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and a Fisheries Protocol.

The EU Delegation was led by Mr Roberto Cesari, Head of the Bilateral Agreements and Fisheries Control in International Waters Unit, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission. The Cook Islands Delegation was led by Mr Ben Ponia, Secretary of the Ministry of Marine Resources.

The draft Agenda was adopted and it is appended as Attachment 1. The list of participants is appended as Attachment 2.

Discussions were held in a positive, open and constructive atmosphere, resulting in the initialing of a bilateral Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and a Fisheries Protocol, which are appended as Attachment 3.

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement will apply for 8 years and be tacitly renewable. The Fisheries Protocol will apply for 4 years and provide fishing opportunities for four Union vessels.

The global value of the Fisheries Protocol will add up to 5.3 million EUR for four years with contributions from the Union and the shipowners for up to 7,000 tonnes of tuna annually. The Union public contribution will include a specific amount of 1.4 million EUR for the support and implementation of initiatives taken in the context of the Cook Islands sectoral fisheries policy.

The initialled texts will have to be approved by the respective authorities. The Union and the Cook Islands will keep each other informed of the progress with their respective internal procedures for starting provisional application of the Agreement and its Protocol.

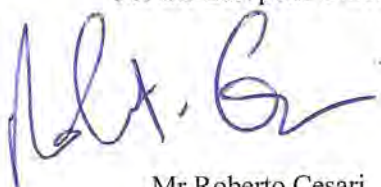
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Once those are operational, the Parties will monitor on a regular basis the fishing activities of the Union vessels in the Cook Islands. The authorities of the Cook Islands in particular will ensure that the fishing opportunities made available to the Union vessels pursuant to relevant national legislation are kept in line with the reference tonnage specified in the Fisheries Protocol.

Both Parties recognized and welcomed the manner in which the negotiations had been held, which had contributed to their successful conclusion to the satisfaction of both sides.

For the European Union:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roberto Cesari', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Roberto Cesari  
Head of Unit

For the Cook Islands:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Ponia', with a horizontal line at the end.

Mr Ben Ponia  
Secretary of the Ministry of Marine Resources

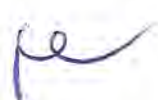
EUROPEAN UNION – THE COOK ISLANDS

*Agenda*

**SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A EU-COOK ISLANDS SUSTAINABLE  
FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL**

Brussels (Belgium), 19 – 21 October 2015

1. Opening of meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Overview of possible amendments to the draft Agreement, Protocol and Annex
3. Standard Clauses
4. Fishing opportunities and reference tonnage
5. EU financial contribution for access
6. Fishing authorisations fees and advance payments
7. Sectoral support
8. AOB



EUROPEAN UNION – THE COOK ISLANDS

*List of Participants*

**SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL**

Brussels (Belgium), 19 – 21 October 2015

**The Cook Islands:**

Mr. Ben Ponia (Head of Delegation)  
Ms. Zoe Genet

**European Union:**

Mr. Roberto Cesari (Head of Delegation)  
Ms. Pavlina Nikolova (DG MARE)  
Ms. Marie Debieuvre (DG MARE)  
Mr. Matthieu Serna (DG MARE)  
Mr. J. Ignacio de Leiva (DG MARE)

Mr. Antonio Ataz (Secretariat General of  
Council of the European Union)

Mr. Ton Ijlstra (Presidency, Netherlands)  
Mr. Rafael Centenera (Spain)  
Mr. Carlos Aldegueria (Spain)