

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries  
**Trade Negotiations and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements**

Brussels, to  
MARE B3/CC/Ares(2018)

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Dear Executive Secretary:

The European Union has signed a partnership agreement with Côte d'Ivoire. The Joint Management Committee for the 2018-2024 protocol of provisional application has just been held in Abidjan, on 26-28 November 2018. Simultaneously, the European Parliament Committee on Fisheries has pronounced on 27 November 2018 the acceptance of the conclusion of this same Protocol, now awaiting a vote in plenary.

On the occasion of the Joint Commission, a meeting was organized with a delegation of representatives of many associations of the processing industry and a visit to its artisanal processing facilities. These processors stated the great difficulties encountered when attempting to market the by-catches of the Spanish and French tuna vessels that dock in Abidjan, despite the agreement they have to access the vessels.

The Union supports the measures adopted for the benefit of the local populations, and the partnership with Côte d'Ivoire should allow the actions of poverty reduction and promotion of local employment to materialize. Therefore, it is extremely important to allow the associations willing to purchase raw materials for their processing activities to access such landings, which concern around 7,000 women transformers. The European Parliament explicitly underlined this point when it examined the accepted Protocol. The associations remember that they did not request any discount for free but rather a sale at a wholesale price, which enables them to obtain a profit margin.

For these reasons, I ask you to disseminate this note among the members of the LDAC and call the attention of those of its members who represent the fishing operators in Côte d'Ivoire, so that the local agents or whomsoever is responsible for the landings may receive appropriate orders. The aim is to allow the affected associations to take part as soon as possible and in a concrete manner in the direct marketing of such resources at the time of landing.

This case ought to serve as an example of the relationship between the Union and the partner countries. But beyond this specific case, it would be desirable for the LDAC to reflect on the

maximization of the potential socioeconomic benefits derived from the activity of the fishing fleet within the framework of fisheries agreements and the EU intervention in such partner countries, including in terms of communication on the subject.

Christian RAMBAUD  
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