

AGREEMENT in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the amendment to the Agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania initialled in Brussels on 20 June 1996.

A. Letter from the Community

Sir,

With reference to the Agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, initialled in Brussels on 20 June 1996, I have the honour to inform you that the European Community agrees to the amendments to the following technical provisions of the Agreement, provided that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is disposed to do likewise:

- datasheet No 5 on cephalopods shall be replaced by the corresponding datasheet attached,
- datasheet No 9 on pelagic fishing shall be replaced by the corresponding datasheet attached,
- pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners may be granted quarterly licences. Fees shall continue to be calculated on the basis of the annual statement of catches per vessel and be subject, in accordance with datasheet No 8, to payment of an advance of ECU 2 000 per year,
- whether or not scientific observers are present on board, owners of pelagic vessels who are in possession of a licence shall contribute ECU 350 per month per vessel to the cost of scientific observation. Clearly, shipowners shall not be liable for the salaries of scientific observers on board their vessels.

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

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

On behalf of the Council of the European Union

B. Letter from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Gentlemen,

I am in receipt of your letter of today's date which reads as follows:

'Sir,

With reference to the Agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, initialled in Brussels on 20 June 1996, I have the honour to inform you that the European Community agrees to the amendments to the following technical provisions of the Agreement, provided that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is disposed to do likewise:

- datasheet No 5 on cephalopods shall be replaced by the corresponding datasheet attached,
- datasheet No 9 on pelagic fishing shall be replaced by the corresponding datasheet attached,
- pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners may be granted quarterly licences. Fees shall continue to be calculated on the basis of the annual statement of catches per vessel and be subject, in accordance with datasheet No 8, to payment of an advance of ECU 2 000 per year,
- whether or not scientific observers are present on board, owners of pelagic vessels who are in possession of a licence shall contribute ECU 350 per month per vessel to the cost of scientific observation. Clearly, shipowners shall not be liable for the salaries of scientific observers on board their vessels.

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

I have the honour to confirm that the contents of your letter are acceptable to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and that your letter and this one constitute an Agreement in accordance with your proposal.

Please accept, Gentlemen, the assurance of my highest consideration.  
For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

#### ANNEX

'Fishing datasheet No 5

#### FISHING CATEGORY: CEPHALOPODS

1. Fishing zone: Same as laid down by the Mauritanian law applying to its national vessels.  
During a period laid down annually by decree of the Minister responsible for sea fishing, fishing is not authorized within the lines between the following points:

2. Authorized gear: bottom trawl.

Doubling of the cod-end is prohibited.

Doubling of the twine forming the cod-end is prohibited.

3. Minimum authorized mesh size: 70 mm.

4. Biological recovery: Two (2) months: September and October.

The Contracting Parties may decide by common agreement to adjust the above period of biological recovery.

5. By-catches: -

6. Authorized tonnage/fees:

7. Comments: (1) The authorized tonnage (GRT) may vary by a maximum of 3 % during the first and second years and by a maximum of 2 % during the last three years.'

'Fishing datasheet No 9

#### FISHING CATEGORY: PELAGIC FREEZER TRAWLERS

1. Fishing zone

1.1. north of latitude 19° 21 N: the line between the following points:

1.2. south of latitude 19° 21 N: 12 nautical miles from the low-water mark.

2. Authorized gear: pelagic trawl.

3. Minimum authorized mesh size: 40 mm.

4. Biological recovery: -

5. By-catches: 3 % fish, 0 % cephalopods and 0 % crustaceans.

6. Authorized tonnage/Number of vessels/Fees:

7. Comments:

The vessels fall into three categories:

- Category 1: gross tonnage of less than or equal to 3 000 GT; ceiling: 12 500 T/vessel/annum;

- Category 2: gross tonnage of more than 3 000 GT but less than or equal to 5 000 GT; ceiling: 17 500 T/vessel/annum;

- Category 3: gross tonnage of more than 5 000 GT but less than or equal to 8 000 GT; ceiling: 22 500 T/vessel/annum.