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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS
Bilateral agreements and fisheries control in international waters

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MARE/B3/SR

Call for Applications for membership of the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) in support of the EU – Mauritania Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA)

Background

On 30 November 2006, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 1801/2006¹ on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

On 10 July 2015, the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania initiated a new, 4-year Protocol to the SFPA.

Article 3 of the Protocol states that parties undertake to promote responsible fishing in Mauritanian fishing zones, based on the principles of sustainable exploitation of fishery resources and marine ecosystems. For this purpose, the Independent Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) shall meet at least once a year, covering the activities mentioned in the Protocol.

Therefore, a Scientific Committee of highly qualified scientific experts needs to be established in order to advise the SFPA Joint Committee on matters pertaining to the conservation and management of living aquatic resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations raised by the Joint Committee. The JSC is attended by scientists nominated by each party to the SFPA.

The European Commission is therefore calling for applications with a view to appoint experts from the EU side in support of the EU – Mauritania Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement for the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) membership.

EU Members of this JSC are required to contribute to the overall work of the JSC participating in the relevant Expert Working Groups providing paper contributions and analysis as appropriate.

The European Commission may also request EU JSC members to attend stakeholder meetings, such as meetings of the Advisory Councils, Regional Member State fora, working groups and workshops of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and of Sea Conventions relevant for this SFPA, and, where relevant, any other scientific working group organised by the EU or Mauritania on matters linked to the SFPA.

¹ OJ L 343, 8.12.2006, p. 1.

The Committee shall consist of 5 EU members appointed on a personal capacity. A JSC reserve list will be also established.

The European Commission shall select the EU JSC members in a personal capacity for a mandate on period according to the duration of the enforced Protocol to the EU – Mauritania Fisheries Partnership. EU and Mauritanian Members of the JSC shall give the SFPA Joint Committee an independent opinion free from outside influence and shall respect the conditions of confidentiality. EU and Mauritanian Members shall commit to act independently and in the public interest.

Selection criteria

The European Commission will take the following criteria into account when assessing applications:

1. Proven competence and experience in the following areas:
 - a. Main areas of competence and experience
 - i. dynamics of west-African coast fish populations and more particularly on
 - cephalopods (octopus and squids)
 - crustaceans (coastal and deep-water shrimps)
 - demersal finfish (hakes and associated species)
 - small-pelagic species (anchovies, sardinellas, sardines, mackerels and horse-mackerels)
 - highly migratory species (Tunas and tuna-like species and associated species)
 - ii. dynamics of west-African coastal and marine ecosystems and more particularly on
 - Banc d'Arguin coastal ecosystems
 - Large Marine Ecosystem of the Canaries current
 - The West African upwelling
 - iii. dynamics of domestic and international fishing fleets in West African fisheries
 - iv. fishing gear technology
 - v. conservation and technical conservation measures
 - vi. assessment of fish stock and fisheries
 - vii. scientific data collection in support of EU-CFP, CEECAF or ICCAT
 - b. Other possible areas of competence and experience
 - i. International, EU and west-African domestic fisheries management frameworks (including control and enforcement measures)
 - ii. Ecosystem based approach to fisheries management
 - iii. fishery economics and economic analysis of the fishing sector in the EU and in Western African States
2. Candidates should possess either:
 - a. at least a university degree, followed by a research degree and at least 5 additional years relevant professional work experience in fisheries scientific research and expertise.

Or

 - b. at least a university degree and at least ten years relevant professional work experience in fisheries scientific research and expertise.
3. The need to strike a balance within the group of EU experts in terms of expertise, gender and geographical origin:

- a. The European Commission will assess applications by taking into account the need for a broad coverage of the scientific issues concerning the SFPA between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- b. In addition, the European Commission will strive for a membership comprising experts from disciplines that reflect the diversity of scientific issues and approaches related to fisheries science within the scientific issues concerning the SFPA between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania together with a balanced gender and geographical origin from among the proposals received.

4. Proficiency in French:

- a. which is the working language regarding fisheries within the SFPAs with francophone speaking partners in the West African region, to a level that allows selected candidates to participate in discussions and draft reports in this language.
- b. Knowledge of a second or more languages is considered as an asset.

Expenses

Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by EU participants in the activities of the JSC shall be reimbursed by the European Commission. EU JSC members shall be entitled to compensation in accordance with the provisions in force at the European Commission within the limits of the available budgetary appropriations.

Application procedure

Applications must be completed in English/French, clearly indicating the applicant's nationality and including the necessary documentation. All applicants must document their professional experience and expertise in full by means of:

- a. a curriculum vitae summarizing the academic and publication record as well as professional experience (All curricula vitae should be submitted in the European format);
- b. any additional information to assist the European Commission in assessing the suitability of the candidate;
- c. a letter of motivation in support of their application; and
- d. matrix filled in for the expert's fields of expertise and geographical coverage of the field.

The duly signed application must be sent by 26 February 2016 at the latest to the following e-mail address: MARE-JSC-MAURITANIA@ec.europa.eu

The date of the application will be the date of sending the e-mail. For any further information please contact the address above.

The list of EU members of the JSC as well as the reserve list shall be published in the Register of expert groups. It will also be published on the European Commission's Fisheries website and in the Official Journal of the European Union. Members who do not wish to have their names disclosed may apply for derogation from this rule. The request not to disclose the name of a member of an expert group shall be considered justified whenever publication could endanger his or her security or integrity or unduly prejudice his or her privacy.

Personal data will be collected, processed and published in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.