

Ref.: 61/2019

Rome, 25 February 2019

Object: accusation of Oceana – press release 7th December 2018

Referring to the accusation expressed in Oceana’s press release on December 7th, 2018, in particular regarding:

“Oceana has seen evidence revealing that an EU-funded body, the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC), aligned with a portion of the Italian fishing industry to lobby MEPs and postpone the latest European Parliament vote on the Western Mediterranean Multiannual Plan, which could have decided the future of the most overexploited sea in the world. Senior figures within this advisory body, who are required to remain impartial, orchestrated and disseminated the position of the fishing industry to the Members of the European Parliament, urging them to delay the vote. According to the evidence, this is not the first time that this tactic has been used for Mediterranean negotiations”

and following the letter from the European Commission submitted during the WG1 on December 10th (ref. Ares (2018)6308147 - 07/12/2018) in Rome and the MEDAC reply letter (ref.335/2018 10 December 2018) sent on the same day,

MEDAC members¹, taking into account the clarifications after the discussion during the General Assembly on February 20th in Venice:

- Reject the accusations as not founded;
- Agree on the amendments of the Internal Regulation;
- Ask that the present statement is voted by the General Assembly and results are introduced into this meeting’s record.

¹ Out of 37 members attending the MEDAC General Assembly meeting (held in Venice on 20 February 2019) 32 voted in favor, 1 against and 3 abstained. The missing vote is due to the fact that the vice-presidency did not vote and therefore EAA could not vote as no other representative was attending the meeting.