



Ref: 160/AV

Rome, 10 June 2011

## OPINION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN REGULATION

*The MED RAC Executive Committee*

met on 9 June 2011 in Rome, basing the meeting on what had been discussed in the Working Group held on 20 April 2011 in Rome on the carrying out, the impacts and problems linked to the EC Regulation n. 1967/2006.

*Given that*

the MED RAC had already drawn up an opinion on 8 June 2010, approved by the Excom meeting in Marbella (with the abstention of WWF and recreational fishing\*);

*Confirms*

the contents of what had been expressed in the opinion of 8 June 2010, and in particular, the need for an urgent check on the Regulation aimed at evaluating the impacts and the possible need to modify the same, underlining that the opinion itself does not include any requests for derogations (of which the Member States will be responsible for making any requests in their management plans), nor express anything concerning the non-conformity with the Regulation, exemptions or extensions;

*Requests to*

- speed up the procedures for the examination and eventual approval of the management plans;
- consider what are the critical points in the technical assessment, the height and depth of purse seines, and the twine diameter of the cod-end of trawl nets;
- discuss the problem of the rigging of trawl nets with new mesh on which the attached legal opinion asserts the need to modify the cod-end alone;
- discuss the previous points during a specific workshop, lasting at least two days, with the services of DG MARE, also to deal properly with specific problems in delicate areas such as the Greek situation and island areas, aimed at moving beyond the present point where there is a lack of comparison and dialogue, and hoping for more consideration placed on the MED RAC declarations and its institutional advisory role.

Attached:

- the FNCCP legal position.

\* OCEANA asked to be included among the members which abstained from accepting the MED RAC opinion of 8 June 2010.

