



Prot.: 328/REL

Rome, 19th November 2014

## MINUTES OF MEDAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On 8th May 2014 at 15:45, the Executive Committee meeting was held at the Grand Hotel Bernardin in Portoroz to discuss the following ;

### AGENDA

1. Adoption of the report of the Executive Committee meeting held in Rome (12 November 2013)
2. Possible adoption of a draft opinion on the consultation on technical measures
3. Possible adoption of opinions on the landing obligation and on regionalization
4. Proposal to amend the MEDAC financial year starting from 2015
5. Updated list of MEDAC members, the situation regarding 2014 fee payment. Deliberation on the membership applications received from new associations (HGK and OP du SUD).
6. Any other matters

The following participants were present at the meeting:

Snezana Levstik, José Maria Gallart, Iolanda Piedra, Antoni Garau Coll, Mario Ferretti, Gian Ludovico Ceccaroni, Oscar Sagué Pla, Paolo Pelusi, Erika Monnati, Rosa Caggiano, Sergio Schiavone, Eusebi Esgleas Pares, Mario Vizcarro, Giampaolo Buonfiglio, Philippe Maraval, Caroline Mangalo, Gennaro Scognamiglio, Luca Stasi, Susana Sainz-Trapaga, Marta Carreras, Kristina Mislov and Ivan Birkic.

The presence of participants is registered on signed sheets. The attendance sheets will be kept on record.

Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio chaired the session. Mrs. Rosa Caggiano was the rapporteur.

Mr Buonfiglio opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, giving a brief summary of the results of the WGs that had just taken place, he also announced that the Secretariat had received a letter from Member States requesting that MEDAC assume the role of facilitator in preparing a draft recommendation for a joint management plan on discards.

In the light of discussions during the WG3 meeting and following the presentation made by the GFCM representative on the guidelines for the preparation of Management Plans, with reference to the greater involvement of stakeholders the President proposed sending a draft letter to all MS (with a copy to the GFCM and the EC) following approval by the General Assembly, calling for MEDAC to be considered the consultative platform for all Mediterranean stakeholders in the framework of the procedures to revise the GFCM.



Given that currently there are no clear indications on the role to be assumed by the Advisory Councils in the reform of the CFP and that stakeholders are not always consulted in advance by the EC, contacting the Member States directly seemed to be the logical step. The Chair proceeded to ask if there were changes to be made to the agenda, which was approved with the proposal to provide a better definition of fishing days under any other matters.

#### **Agenda Item I: Adoption of the report of the Executive Committee meeting held in Rome (12 November 2013)**

The report was adopted with the inclusion of the clarification previously sent to the Secretariat by Paseges.

#### **Agenda Item II: Possible adoption of a draft opinion on the consultation on technical measures**

The Chair recalled that the aim of this consultation was to establish the basic general technical measures and then leave all other measures to a more flexible system. For this reason, the Secretariat issued a table which brought together all contributions received by the members and summarized by Secretariat in order to harmonize the content to present a common position. The debate began.

The representative of OCEANA expressed disagreement with the answers proposed by MEDAC, with particular reference to question number 3: "What measures are considered unnecessary and should be abolished?" she also disagreed with the fact that the impact on marine ecosystems is not taken into consideration.

The Chair replied specifying that in question three, MEDAC refers to two opinions adopted (prot.25/10 of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and prot. 160/AV of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011) on technical measures, which had already reported the dissenting comments of several associations, including that of OCEANA.

The WWF representative stated the opinion that including detailed information on the changes to the Mediterranean Regulation in this paper seems illogical and incoherent, as it is a general consultation, she suggested on the other hand to take advantage of regionalization for the preparation/modification of any technical measures (Art. 18 Basic Regulation).

The representative of CNPMEM agreed that it was not necessary to go into specific details, reporting each individual contribution. MEDAC should respond with a shared position that does not exclude the possibility for the individual associations to send their views directly to the EC.

The FNCCP representative underlined that in providing MEDAC with comments the associations had already made some "concessions" and if the document is changed too much the message could be distorted.

The IFSUA/EAA representative stated his opinion that the document is confusing, sometimes contradictory, and often does not respond to the Commission's questions, he complained that comments made by IFSUA and EAA were not fully reported.

The President reiterated that the deadline for the consultation is 14<sup>th</sup> May and so unfortunately the timing does not allow for any further consultation or mediation, the alternative would be for MEDAC not to present anything.

The representative of Lega Pesca suggested working directly on the text in order to salvage the already work done and achieve a shared document.

The representatives of CNPMEM and IVEAEMPA suggested getting together at the end of the meeting to prepare a joint document for approval by the General Assembly, which would meet on the following day.

The President reiterated that it would be appropriate to attempt to reach a compromise, demonstrating an ability to synthesize and present a shared document. It was therefore decided that the General Assembly should



approve the MEDAC contribution to the Consultation on technical measures, in order to leave more time for the final details.

### **Agenda Item III: Possible adoption of opinions on the landing obligation and on regionalization**

As the opinions on the landing obligation and on regionalization (GSA 17) had not been completed, the Chair reiterated that all MEDAC members were invited to send their contributions by May 19, in order to send the MS an opinion on a joint recommendation for a management plan on small pelagic fish by the end of the following week.

### **Agenda Item IV: Proposal to amend the MEDAC financial year starting from 2015**

The Executive Secretary noted that the proposal for the amendment of the financial year had been inserted to overcome the delay in pre-financing that occurs every year. She informed the meeting, however, that the EC had responded that the vacant period between the end of the old and the beginning of the new financial year should be covered by the members, the suggested solution was thus considered unfeasible. The only alternative seemed to be to bring forward the payment of the annual fees to the first 15 days of January at the latest, in order to enable the Secretariat to close the financial year within two months as foreseen in the new Framework Partnership Agreement. The members of the COMEX expressed their agreement with this proposed amendment which would be voted on the following day by the General Assembly.

### **Agenda Item V: Updated list of MEDAC members, the situation regarding 2014 fee payment. Deliberation on the membership applications received from new associations (HGK and OP du SUD).**

The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that, to date, 9 organizations had not paid their annual fee: PEPMA explained that they were going through a difficult period and would wait for the vote within their assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> June; ANAPI Pesca, CRMPEM LR and PROFILMER informed the meeting that the payment should be made by the summer. There had been no news from Archipelagos and GKTS. HOK, the new Croatian association, would make the fee payment of the fee.

Where the Member States are concerned, four quotas had been received including the contribution from Slovenia.

The executive Secretary presented the candidatures from HGK, the Croatian Economic Chamber, whose representatives were present and the OP du SUD, an association of French producers who had completed the process. The new membership applications were put to the vote and approved unanimously.

The representative of HGK asks whether it was also possible to enter the ExCom.

The Chair explained that in the 2/3 there is a seat reserved for Croatia and as HOK was the first association to join MEDAC, it entered the ExCom. In order to enter in place of the HOK, this latter should give written notice of resignation. The Chair suggested that HGK should make contact with HOK to agree on how to proceed.

### **Agenda Item VI: Any other matters**

The coordinator of the WG on regionalization recalled that on the previous day, along with the colleagues from Croatia and Slovenia, it had been decided to submit a draft letter to provide clarifications (in particular on the definition of “fishing day”) as foreseen in the draft EC recommendation that amends recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 on GSA17.



The Chair noted that, unfortunately, MEDAC had only become aware of this proposal by the EC off the record and there had not been enough time to discuss it in greater detail. As a technical coordination meeting was scheduled to take place in the before long between the EC and MS in view of the annual session of the GFCM, he suggested sending a letter prepared by MEDAC as soon as possible.

The representative of the French Ministry proposed adding a paragraph referring to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the GFCM guidelines for the preparation of multi-annual management plans, which includes the involvement of stakeholders throughout the drafting process.

The representatives of OCEANA, IFSUA and WWF abstained because the scientific data available from the SAC did not permit them to express an opinion on the proposal to amend the definition of “fishing day”.

The Chair reiterated that with this letter MEDAC only proposed an amendment to the definition of “fishing day” and not other aspects. In addition, he pointed out that, in the event that the proposed amendment is approved, this would align the definition with that present in the logbook. The Chair then put the letter to the vote and it was approved by a majority of those present, with 8 votes in favour and 3 abstentions (OCEANA, WWF, IFSUA)

There were no further matters to discuss and so the meeting was declared closed at 17.45.

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