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Rome, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN -CCR  
MED**

On 21 February at 10:15, at the Fair of Rimini, the meeting of the General Assembly was held to discuss and deliberate on the following:

**Agenda**

1. Situation of the list of members and new membership requests;
2. Based on the request for funding for 2011 for the running of CCR MED, the following will be examined:
  - Closing of 2009/ 2010 budget;
  - Presentation of 2011 CCR MED budget;
  - Draft work program for 2011;
  - Permanent working groups.
3. Presentation and approval of CCR MED Internal Regulation;
4. A standardized legislation for sport and recreational fishing. Introduction by Mr. Santolini, BigGame Italia. Proposals and discussion;
5. Instructions on participant travel reimbursement for CCR MED meetings;
6. Any other business.

**Attendance:** Oriol Ribalta, Rafael Mas Piedecausa, Vicente garau Juan, Marco Sammiceli, Laura Pisano, Paolo Righi, Gemma Quilez, Oscar Sagué, Esteban Graupera, Gianfranco Santolini, Amelie Malafosse, Adriana Celestini, Fabio Massa, Enrico Arneri, Francesco Zizzo, Giorgio Di Stefano, Barbara Zinko, Ioannis Bountoukos, Marino Mihovilovic, Zlatko Milovan, Iris Sever, Estefania Sanchez, Genaro Amigo Choucino, Marina Illuminati, Mario Vizcarro, Eusebi Esgleas Pares, Snezana Levstik, Hernan Subirats, Antonio Marzoa Dopico, Otello Giovanardi, Nino Accetta, Angelo Mancuso, Giovanni Mininni, Erika Monnati, Isabelle Viallon, Nicolas Gorodetska, Rosa Caggiano, Giampaolo Buonfiglio, Mourad Kahoul, Edouard Pages, Rocio Bejar, Jose Maria Gallart, Elisabetta Giannocari, Gilberto Ferrari, Karachle Paraskevi, José Manuel Gonzalez Gil De Bernabé, Maria Papadopoulou, Massimo Coccia;



Participant attendance can also be verified by the signatures of all participants on meeting papers. The attendance sheets will be filed with the minutes.

Mr. Buonfiglio accepted the Chair, as the President was unable to attend due to his flight being cancelled in Rome. Ms. Rosa Caggiano acted as Secretary.

Chairman Buonfiglio opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, particularly the representatives from the Italian, French and Slovenian ministries, the representatives from CGPM and the FAO regional projects, and the EC representative. He also welcomed a delegation of a cooperative from Croatia (Lanterna) and some representatives of new member associations.

The Chair proposed to change the Agenda due to the absence of various members that had remained held up in Rome with the President, dealing with item 4 in the morning and item 2 in the afternoon, in the hope of all being present, and it being a rather delicate question. The proposal to modify the Agenda was approved.

### **Item I: Situation of the list of members and new membership requests**

Before giving the floor to the Executive Secretary (ES), the Chair reported on the list of members that numbered 24, however, during the last COMEX, not having reached agreement on the membership of some associations (ANAPI, ANACEME, APCCR, Etang de Berre, Archipelagos), there was a proposal and request to send a note to the EC asking for clarification on the procedures to be followed. The ES took the floor and read the responding letter from the EC, of 31 January, where it was confirmed that Art. 5 of the Board Decision (585/2001) does not establish any criteria in the case of possible requests for membership, and therefore, it is left to the full discretion of each CCR. The EC reaffirmed the importance of enlarging the member base with as many members as possible, enriching debate and representing the different situations in the fishing sector. Moreover, the EC brought up again the point that no organization which has been recognized by the ministry can be denied membership. France confirmed the recognition of Etang de Berre, Italy of ANAPI Pesca and Spain of ANACEME and APCCR, while the Greek ministry reaffirmed its reservations regarding Archipelagos. Meanwhile, the Secretariat has received membership requests from new candidates - FEDAS, OCEANA, Italiana Produttori Ittici (IPI) and FEDEROP.IT. Both FEDAS and OCEANA have already been recognized by the Spanish ministry, note of 18 February, and, therefore, during the COMEX, their membership will be proposed. Regarding IPI and FEDEROP.IT, the Secretariat has sent the request for recognition to the Italian ministry and it is still being processed.

The Chair took the floor and pointed out the particular case of Penelope AKTEA, which during the CCR MED Constituent Assembly was included in COMEX, with a 1/3 presence, but then at a later date, this association's participation registered as less, and the GA was asked if there were any objections to re-including Penelope Aktea in the COMEX. The Chair asked if there were any comments on this.

Mr. Graupera intervened commenting that in other CCRs there had been similar problems and he agreed on accepting this request, however, in the future it would be necessary to reconsider this issue.

The EC representative spoke confirming that both the processing/transformation sector and that of women should



be re-included in the 2/3, (art. 1 of the Board Decision 585/2004), and in future it would be preferable to adhere to proportionality.

Mr Ribalta took the floor and asserted that also APCCR, as Penelope Aktea, should be re-included in the 2/3. The Chair pointed out that the new composition of the COMEX members will take place at the end of the 4 year period, when the 2013 GA will form the new COMEX. The Chair welcomed Penelope Aktea as a member of the COMEX.

## **Item II: A standardized legislation for sport and recreational fishing. Introduction by Mr. Santolini, BigGame Italia.**

### **Proposals and discussion**

Before giving the floor to Mr. Santolini, the Chair recalled that Big Game Italia had already proposed a position on sports fishing to Marbella. In the Mediterranean Regulation, it is forecasted that all member states must monitor their recreational fishing and the CCRs could adopt their own positions on this.

Mr. Santolini explained the paper and reaffirmed that both sport and recreational fishing should be recognized by Europe and the Mediterranean as a very different situation to that of the Northern European countries. He hoped that in the EU legislation this thinking would be included to provide transparency and traceability, fundamental in preventing illegal fishing. Therefore, it would be the case to monitor the quantity of the catch of sport and recreational fishing and verify its impact on resources. Concerning authorizations, in Italy, a ministerial decree was approved where all recreational fishers must register, free of charge, by linking onto the ministry website.

The EAA delegate took the floor and requested that CCR MED should not approve this paper in this meeting as he had studied many issues that would require a more in-depth debate and so he requested an ad hoc working table. Moreover, he considered that the attached paper presented by Mr. Santolini was not acceptable as it dealt with an extract from a transversal workshop of SAC of the CGPM.

The ANAPI Pesca delegate took the floor and seconded the proposal to set up an ad hoc table to better clarify the different typologies of recreational fishing and also to take into account the historical preemption right of fishers. It is necessary to remember the principle of sustainability, not only environmental but also socio-economic.

Mr. Ribalta took the floor agreeing with setting up an ad hoc working group for recreational fishing, inviting both the professional and the environmentalist sectors to participate, specifically for the principle of transparency.

Mr. Graupera shared the position of BigGame Italia and proposed that this working group be set up as soon as possible.

The FEDAS delegate proposed also including scuba-diving fishing in Mr. Santolini's paper.

The Chair intervened saying that during the COMEX the *modus operandi* will have to be decided, whether to adopt the paper or postpone it to another ad hoc working table.

The delegate from the French government informed the meeting that the CCR should be able to provide a contribution on recreational fishing, given that in May the annual session of the CGPM, where recreational fishing will be dealt with, will be held.

Mr. Massa, the CGPM delegate, thanked CCR MED for the opportunity to participate in this GA. He summarized the



various phases of the CGPM that have resulted in the transversal working group paper jointly with Malta. The results from Malta were then presented in Marseilles during the CGPM Scientific Committee (SAC). The SAC findings, which are from a scientific point of view, will be then presented in the annual CGPM meeting in May where it will be decided on whether to adopt them or not.

### **Item III: Presentation and approval of the CCR MED Internal Regulation**

The Chair introduced item 3 and recalled that it had already been dealt with in the assembly in Marbella, specifically regarding new membership procedures.

The ES explained the paper relevant to the rules of procedure for new membership and underlined that all members are obliged to send their annual fees by and no later than 31 March 2011, otherwise they will be dismissed without any further notice.

Concerning the code of silence/EC approval, established in Marbella, the Chair pointed out that it was, however, necessary to receive a confirmation from the relevant ministry, or the same applicant involved should urge a response.

Mr. Santolini stressed that non-payment of fees by the pre-fixed date carried administrative repercussions resulting in a discrepancy in the budget forecast, both for the credits and the debits which weighs on the subsidies and, therefore, he urged all to respect the due deadlines.

The EC representative asked for a clarification on the procedure for excluding any possible members in arrears. Mr. Buonfiglio responded that a notice written by the Secretariat and signed by the President would be sent.

The paper was approved with some modifications.

### **Item IV: Based on the request for funding for 2011 for the running of CCR MED, the following will be examined: Closing of 2009/ 2010 budget; Presentation of CCR MED 2011 budget; 2011 draft work program; Permanent working groups.**

The work began again after the lunch break chaired by Mr. Kahoul who gave the floor to the ES who, using slides, presented the financial situation for 2009 and 2010

In both 2009 and 2010 there resulted non-admissible expenses that concerned, respectively, mobile phone and the President's travel expenses, amounting to approx. €15,000, and which must be refunded to the CCR. This sum had still to be approved by the EC. As well, the ES informed the meeting that the CCR had to reimburse the EC the sum of approx. €156,000 due to an error in the forecasts and the non-adjustment of the balance over the previous years. This sum would be detracted from the 2011 contribution requested for the EC.

Mr. Buonfiglio underlined that it was necessary to find an economic cover for the non-allowable expenses and it was decided to divide the amount relevant to the non-allowable expenses among all the members by the sending of an ad hoc extra-fee bank transfer.

Mr. Santolini continued to stress that, considering all the difficulties in starting up the CCR, and so as not to set a



precedent, he felt it opportune that in the future, if there are unbudgeted expenses they will have to be covered by the person responsible for said expenses.

Ms. Levstik expressed her agreement with procedure proposed by Mr. Buonfiglio, however, she declared that she would also have to have the agreement of her organization.

Ms. Papadopoulou stated that she also would need her organization's consent and proposed that the Secretariat prepare a written procedure to inform all members and the relevant finance services. Mr. Mininni agreed and approved the Greek proposal.

Given the difficulty in fully understanding the procedure relative to the EC contribution, Mr. Buonfiglio pointed out that in the draft budget it was necessary to forecast 5% of the total of allowable expenses as a reserve to cover unforeseen expenses, and in the case, where over the year, this amount is not utilized, it will be deducted from the EC contribution. Concerning the renewed proposal to provide an allowance for the President, as already proposed in the previous COMEX, Mr. Buonfiglio brought up that it would be necessary to present a procurement call and that the 2011 budget does not have the economic resources sufficient to cover either the allowance or the reimbursement of trips made by the President as a representative to meetings external to the CCR (CGPM and ICCAT). The President gave the floor to the ES to describe the project for the 2011 work program that would also mirror the priorities highlighted in a letter sent to the EC.

Mr. Buonfiglio underlined that, given the financial situation of the CCR, there would be an attempt to concentrate the two working groups into two consecutive days to try to reduce the costs. Moreover, he stressed the peculiarity of the EC request to integrate the work program into the indications and timetabling of their proposals.

For example, they asked to plan an ad hoc swordfish working group to analyze the carrying out of an eventual long-term management plan on this stock in view of the annual ICCAT meeting. Thus, the CCR will be able to provide a significant contribution during the phase of drawing up the future EU position on this species. The 2011 work program was approved with the addition of an ad hoc working group on recreational fishing which would take place in March.

#### **Item V: Instructions on participant travel reimbursement for CCR MED meetings**

The President gave the floor to Ms. Monnati who presented the slides regarding the rules to be followed for participant travel reimbursement to CCR meetings and reminded all that the deadline for sending member fees was 31 March, but it would be better if all members could pay their due fees by the end of January.

Ms. Viallon explained that in the other CCRs, it had been established that travel costs would be reimbursed only if the organization in question had paid their fees.

The GA approved Ms. Viallon's proposal and established that in the future the same rule would be applied.

With no other business to be decided upon, and no other speakers, the meeting closed at 17.15.



