



DRAFT MINUTES

16th Meeting of LDAC Working Group 4 Bilateral relations with third countries

Tuesday 10 March 2015. From 09:30h to 13:30h
Martin's Central Park Hotel
Boulevard de Charlemagne 80. Brussels

Chair: José Ramón Fontán
Vice-Chair: Béatrice Gorez

1- Welcome and opening of the meeting.

Mr. Fontán welcomes those present and excuses the absence of the LDAC Chairman, Mr. Cabral, since he had to undergo surgery, and wishes him an early recovery. He also welcomes the new Secretary General, Mr. Rodríguez.

2- Approval of the minutes of the fifteenth meeting of Working Group 4 held on 15 October 2014.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014 are approved with no additional comments.

3- Approval of the agenda.

The agenda is approved, adding a specific point under the item AOB, as requested by Mr. Cesari, regarding an update on the reform of the Fishing Authorisation Regulation (FAR).

Besides, Mr. Fontán informs that the last issue for discussion will be the change in the WG 4 chairmanship, since his idea is to finalise his mandate as he is retiring.

4- Update of the last negotiations and meetings held by the European Commission relating to fisheries agreements with third countries or regions.

a. Agreements in West Africa. (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Cape Verde, Liberia...)

Mr. Cesari, representative of the EC, states that regarding sustainable fisheries agreements the EU has thirteen active fisheries partnership agreement protocols, compared to the eleven ones existing in 2013. There are problems regarding the renewal of agreements with Mauritania and Mozambique. There are ten bilateral agreements relating to tuna: Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Gabon, Senegal, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius, Cook Islands and Kiribati.

There are mixed or multi-species agreements in force with: Morocco, Guinea Bissau and Greenland. Negotiations with Greenland are still being held and will go on to their third round shortly. Mr. Cesari adds that negotiations with Mauritania and Mozambique have been suspended and that the protocol with Kiribati, expiring on next 15 September, is yet to be renewed.

Furthermore, negotiations are being held with Liberia for a new protocol. A second round is expected at the end of this month.

Regarding Tanzania and Kenya, he explains that they visited both countries in December and January, respectively, and that they are now waiting for them to reply in writing. Once they do so, formal negotiations will start with these countries.

As for Sierra Leone, Mr. Cesari reports that official contacts have been initiated and that the authorities of the country visited them a few weeks ago, conveying their will to assess whether to sign a sustainable fisheries agreement. Thus, a technical meeting is likely to take place in Brussels very soon.

He highlights that West Africa is still a priority both for DG MARE and for the European Commission as a whole, as well as the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Regarding sectoral support in third countries, he states their general satisfaction in terms of achieving a level playing field regarding access, since the CFP conditions are being implemented.

On the other hand, Mr. Cesari stresses the fact that DG MARE has strengthened its collaboration and joint efforts with DG DEVCO and is in permanent contact with the different relevant operating units. He believes that developments are being achieved regarding the harmonisation of the fisheries and cooperation policies, particularly vis-à-vis West Africa.

He reports that in his unit they worked at length on the training of inspectors and capacity building in third countries in collaboration with the European Fisheries Control Agency in Vigo. They are widely satisfied with the work carried out in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde and now Guinea Bissau. They have the aim to identify the specific needs of the designated countries regarding monitoring, control and surveillance, and governance.

Another element mentioned is that having an influence on training and sectoral support at inspection level. DG MARE has launched informal contacts with members of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee, meeting with them to exchange views relating to the new SFPA policy.

As far as agreements with West Africa are concerned, Mr. Cesari specifically informs about:

- Senegal: The renewal of the 1980 agreement was signed in November 2015 (the protocol of which had expired in 2006), and was subsequently approved by the European Parliament, so it is considered to be completed in terms of procedures. Fishing operations started with some delay, since the Senegalese administration delayed the issuance of licences. It looks like the first meeting of the Mixed Commission will take place on 15, 16 and 17 April to assess toothfish experimental fisheries. Regarding the landing obligation, there have been problems in Dakar since there is already an obligation to land the catches fished within the agreement in the Senegalese EEZs. There is also pressure from the Senegalese administration sector and a Korean fish-processing company to sell catches at any price in Dakar, something that is not acceptable for the EU. They can be sold, but at an international market price and not at a price imposed by a private company.

- Both in Senegal and Guinea Bissau, the selection process for scientists that will represent the European delegation at joint scientific committees is over. It is a compulsory action for the observation of the first years of fishing activities involving toothfish. Their partners will soon be informed.
- Guinea Bissau: The protocol was signed on 24 November 2014 and is awaiting ratification. It will be in force for 3 years. The Mixed Commission met a month ago and they focused on the work relating to sectoral support in order to strengthen the abilities of the country and control its EEZ. The terms of reference for the Joint Scientific Committee were also approved, something key to get the work started.
- Cape Verde: The protocol was signed on 23 December 2014 and it is on the provisional application phase, awaiting ratification by the EP. There were also some delays regarding the processing of licences, but it has now been improved. A Mixed Commission has been called for the week of 23 March in Brussels. The scope of work focuses on the country's ability to control the fight against IUU fishing, since they are trying to update their VMS, but they are finding it difficult to implement.
- Morocco: Implementation and control have improved since September/October. Not many problems are being encountered with the adoption of the agreement. In June there will be joint scientific committees and the situation will be analysed there. The European Commission is watching the approval of a new Moroccan law regarding toothfish and would like to understand the reasons for this new regulation to come into force. This issue will be analysed by the Mixed Commission that will meet in September 2015.
- Mauritania: Negotiations have been suspended. Since October, efforts are being made to convince them that the EU is willing to pick up negotiations due to the importance of the agreement. The EC is trying to reinstate conversations, but at negotiating level the Mauritanian representative is only interested on the commercial or money-related side, and not on that dealing with sectoral support. The EC has submitted a proposal but it has been rejected. The EC is ready and willing to take over negotiations and they trust that the situation will be able to change soon.

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- Liberia: At the end of January, a first round of negotiations took place. The Administration wishes to reach a fisheries agreement with the EU. They are waiting for a second round of negotiations to be confirmed for the end of March in Brussels, but such confirmation has not been issued yet.
- Sierra Leone: They expressed their interest in signing an agreement. They were invited to a technical meeting in Brussels to start the negotiating process.
- Republic of Guinea: No news or developments to report.

Mr. Fontán thanks the representative of the Commission for his comprehensive report and sums up the problems encountered in the different countries. Regarding Morocco, there is concern that they might change the rules and come up with biological stoppages beyond the initial proposal. It is important that they are reasonable in this regard. The problem in terms of boarding of Moroccan seafarers has been solved and vessels are now working with higher levels of safety.

As for Mauritania, they are awaiting the proposal of the Mauritanian people. Mr. Fontán insists on the fact that a solution would be to award more fishing possibilities for cephalopods in order to justify the financial contribution given to this country as required by the report issued by the European Court of Auditors.

Regarding Senegal, he says that there was a costly delay for the European fleet in the issuance of licences. They hope the activity will be initiated soon, although they are close to the biological stoppage so they have wasted two important fishing months.

As for Guinea Bissau, the agreement worked reasonably well. They have a flexible protocol according to which the local authorities count the licences as of the day they go fishing. There was also a problem in terms of boarding of seafarers, but the situation is positive generally speaking.

Concerning the Republic of Guinea, he states that they are waiting for the effort of this country with regard to IUU fishing to be acknowledged, since it still has a “red card”.

Mr. Garat highlights the fact that in Mauritania there is a fleet, apart from the cephalopod one, which is the Spanish bottom longline fleet that has two out of six vessels still moored and unable to go fishing for the last seven months.

This is linked to the agreement with Morocco, since there are 11 licences for bottom longliners with a maximum of 150 GT per vessel.

This longline fleet cannot use these licences due to the fact that they slightly exceed the limit set at 150 GT. It is suggested that the Commission request further flexibility for these vessels to join in the Morocco fishing ground, without affecting sustainability, in order to respect global GT.

Mr. Fontán requests flexibility in the mobility among modalities, particularly between longliners and trawlers, for the general modality to have a higher level of use.

Mr. Stockhausen asks the WG Chair about the scientific opinions used by Mauritania to endorse its opposition regarding the octopus.

Mr. Fontán replies that the Commission wishes to collaborate with Mauritania to guide the cephalopod management measures based on the recommendations that IEO made in a scientific report financed by the sector (ANACEF PO) itself at the time.

After the members' exchange of views, the LDAC Secretariat identifies the following actions to be taken:

Actions:

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- The LDAC will remain vigilant concerning the state of issuance of permits and qualifications for Moroccan crew members on board EU vessels.
- Proposal by Mr. Garat and Mr. Fontán: to remind the EC to request Morocco to be more flexible in the application of the fisheries agreement to change the fishing modalities without exceeding the general capacity. This would involve the integration of bottom trawlers into the fishing ground and GT exchanges between the longliner and trawler modalities.
- To request enhanced rigour and improvements by the Joint Scientific Committees when assessing stocks, especially cephalopods (squid, calamar and octopus).

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LDAC AND WEST AFRICA REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- To draft the agenda for the workshop with COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO regarding the regional observer programme.

GUINEA CONAKRY

- Proposal by Mr. Fontán: That DG MARE reminds G. Conakry of the importance of going back to being official collaborators (IUU issue) and to acknowledge the efforts and improvements made so far, since they still have a red card.

b. Agreements in the Indian Ocean (Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar...)

The representative of the European Commission, Mr. Cesari, informs about agreements in the Indian Ocean and the 4 protocols in action:

- Seychelles: This is the most important of the agreements for tuna species. It is working well, with the sectoral support of the EU bringing positive and marked effects, as it is conveyed on the minutes of the Mixed Commission by the delegation of Seychelles. Now they have more observers on board since they have invested funds in training. The EU has also contributed to the development of infrastructures at the Victoria port, as well as to attracting investments. When analysing the sectoral programme support, some delays were identified. Thus, in accordance with the new rules, payment has been suspended. A second extraordinary mixed commission is required to check whether the objectives have been achieved. Another pending issue is that it is said that Seychelles has signed an agreement where its national debt is exchanged for an action to mitigate climate change, and this implies establishing a Protected Marine Area. This issue has been subject of discussion with Seychelles since last year, but it is not clear what areas are going to be affected and whether it is going to affect tuna fishing grounds. If this were the case, a problem would arise in the negotiations. However, the relations with Seychelles are positive so contacts are expected to take place before tangible effects are generated.
- Madagascar: The protocol came into force on 1 January 2015, for a 4-year period. The first mixed commission was held on February 2015. The problem is that the government of Madagascar does not wish to promote private fisheries agreements. In fact, they have an agreement for Mayotte vessels to go to that fishing ground. Apparently they have in mind this type of agreements under the framework of private agreements, but not for European fleets.
- Mozambique: They have different plans in terms of fisheries and no developments are expected in the short term. The problem is that the authorities of Mozambique want a different approach for a future protocol, one based on a VDS approach and not on average reference tonnage. They now have a low-use protocol and their economic offer is too high, it is considered unsustainable.

The last round took place in the month of September. At the Commission they want to be constructive, but the negotiators' hopes are not very realistic.

- Kenya and Tanzania: Initial fruitful technical meetings have already been held. It is noted that Tanzania is more complicated a country than Kenya due to its complex governmental structure. But they are working on it based on the conclusions of the technical meeting. As for Kenya, they are expecting to reach an agreement soon, since there is direct dialogue with a ministry and a minister.

Mr. Morón congratulates the EC for the initiatives that it is launching in this Ocean and for initiating contacts with Tanzania and Kenya. He highlights the great relevance of harmonising the conditions to obtain fishing licences, something the LDAC has been trying to promote for a long time, as they tried with the Smartfish programme, where they came up with the establishment of minimum requirements for each country, in a rather unsuccessful way. He asks whether it would be possible for DG MARE to coordinate efforts to achieve this objective.

Regarding the Smartfish programme, Mr. Cesari reports that they had a specific meeting with DG DEVCO that was attended by different representatives. He stresses the fact that the doubts regarding the effectiveness of this programme have already been conveyed to him as well as concerns on the implementation of the second phase of the programme. He believes that the fluent communication currently in place between DG MARE and DG DEVCO is very positive. They have agreed that DG MARE is going to send them a report on the evolution of the project and DG DEVCO has committed itself to study it and discuss it. DG MARE actively collaborates as well with DG DEVCO regarding Kenya and Tanzania in order to support DEVCO initiatives and SFPAs. There needs to be a considerable exchange of information between both of them.

Ms. Gorez enquires whether it is possible to publish the minutes of the joint committees, since it is a topic of great interest.

Mr. Cesari replies that the minutes are submitted to the EC, EP and stakeholders, therefore they have to be published on the Internet.

Mr. Morón briefly informs about the workshop to be carried out by COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO, financed by DG MARE, on several axes: the regional observer programme, port inspections and fisheries agreements. The idea is to work together using the European SFPA scheme as a reference in order for the same criteria to be used by all. If possible, he would like to do something similar with the Smartfish programme later.

Mr. Cesari replies that this is something they will bear in mind and that they will be happy to attend to the seminar and to collaborate insofar as possible.

Finally, he highlights the fact that as from 1 February 2015, the licence and catch system has been moved to unit B3.

Regarding coordination between DG MARE and DG DEVCO, he draws attention to a project that will help apply the fishing policy in the African Union, and DG MARE was invited to take part for the first time, as an example of good coordination and improved dialogue between both Directorates-General.

Actions:

- **Proposal by Mr. Morón: to remind DG MARE to formally request the Smartfish project coordinators that the licence conditions be based on SFPAs.**
- **To voice concerns about the displacement of fishing efforts in the Indian Ocean.**
- **The Commission requests the LDAC submit their contributions and comments on the Smartfish programme for their meeting with IOTC in order to improve good governance.**

5- Horizontal issues.

a. Report on the implementation of the IUU regulation by Third Countries.

The representative of the European Commission, Ms. Laine, reports about Guinea Conakry and how the EC was categorical about reopening the dialogue provided that some aspects of the fishing code were clarified, especially the demarcation of areas, that do not exist in said country. In addition, they requested maximum transparency for licence management and procedures be implemented for high seas surveillance and to review the procedures of sanctions. The EC is now waiting to be contacted to obtain information.

Mr. Fontán points out that this country has made efforts regarding specific issues and, in order to find a way forward, he suggests the EC submit a notification where it says that its fishermen wish to join in again as collaborators fighting against IUU fishing, identifying all the specific aspects where they should improve.

Moreover, Ms. Laine informs that there are twelve countries that have been identified or warned (“yellow card”) and 3 countries commercially sanctioned (“red card”). Countries are moving forward in general terms, such as Korea and the Philippines, so that their yellow card can be withdrawn. Ghana has also evolved in its action plan. Curacao has committed itself to carrying out the actions proposed by the EU.

Tuvalu, Salomon Islands and Saint Vincent seem to wish to comply with the mechanisms provided by the international organisations.

They currently get along very well with DG TRADE and DG DEVCO and, when there are missions, they introduce aspects from DG MARE.

In addition, the Working Group with the United States has been reactivated. The Japanese authorities will also attend this meeting. The EC has set West Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as top priorities.

Strengthening regional cooperation is of the essence. They have the commitment of IOTC to activate the Smartfish programme again. In one month, they will have concrete proposals to reactivate it in a meeting. It is thought that the Indian Ocean is on the right track in terms of improving governance and the fight against IUU fishing.

After exchanging opinions about the Chinese fleets and their failure to comply with human rights, the representative of the EC says that they will soon have a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador, and that a mission is planned to take place before the summer. In fact, in countries such as Taiwan, there are missions and visits aiming to show them and demand from them the same level of results as that of other countries.

Mr. Trujillo reflects upon the need to bring together illegal fishing and the violation of human rights.

The Secretary General, Mr. Rodríguez, enquires about the official presentation of the EC Communication on the application of the IUU Regulation after 5 years of application, and whether its content can be anticipated.



Ms. Laine replies that the Communication is planned to be published before the summer and, in fact, it will be an analysis of the five years of implementation of the regulation. The IUU system is expected to be brought up to date.

In this regard, a Working Group has been set up with DG SANCO to use the TRACE system in the future in order to have an electronic catch certificate, and the agency will also strengthen Member State control. She admits that Spain is a pioneer country regarding the IUU Regulation and that it even goes beyond it in many cases.

In 2015 intra-EU cooperation will be a priority, as well as with INTERPOL, which is developing a risk assessment system and a unified alert protocol for IUU vessels. They expect to raise awareness about these initiatives among EU Member States and to make the latter more receptive.

Mr. Fontán points out that the Port of Las Palmas has become an example of control of fishing activities. In fact, vessels carrying out IUU fishing practices do not go to Las Palmas. It must be encouraged to neighbouring African ports (i.e. Agadir, Dakhla, Nouadhibou, Dakar) to strengthen its controls to avoid unfair competition and entry of IUU vessels.

Mr. Morón asks what else the LDAC can do to continue collaborating with the EC regarding the fight against IUU fishing.

Ms. Laine highlights the importance of the fact that the LDAC conveys any information concerning problems found in the different countries in order to prevent goods coming from illegal fishing practices to enter the EU market. According to her, the main attribute of the LDAC is the transparent exchange of information among its members, thus being of great importance to communicate it to the EC.

Mr. Rodríguez enquires about the EC's possible query about the review of the Control Regulation in force, as well as the deadline for the submission of comments.

Ms. Laine states that the Member States will fill in a questionnaire on the effectiveness of this Regulation, and an impact assessment will be conducted. The query will probably be launched in about one month's time and it will be presented at the Inter-AC coordination meeting with the EC planned for 27 March. 2015 will be a year to focus on analysis and drafting, so that in 2016 a new specific proposal can be presented to improve the Regulation.

b. Participation between the LDAC and STECF.

The Secretary General reminds those present about the possibility to participate as observer in certain meetings held by STECF Expert Working Groups. The most suitable representation of LDAC would be a delegation made up of a representative of the industry, a representative of NGOs and someone from the LDAC Secretariat.

Mr. Fontán thinks that DG MARE could issue a positive report for the LDAC to take part in the STECF meetings.

Mr. Liria believes that the request to attend should be maintained first and it should later on be decided the delegation that will attend.

Action:

- **The EC will be requested to issue a positive report for the LDAC to take part in STECF meetings as permanent observer.**

6- AOB.

6.1 Review of the FAR

Mr. Cesari informs that this issue has been taken from Unit D4 to B3, mainly working on sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPA). Unit 3B is working on very specific terms, regarding the framework of Communication on the External Dimension of the CFP, on the Regulation relating to private fishing licences (FAR), since they believe it needs to be reviewed. In addition, after analysing it, the need to improve the regulation's normative provisions has been identified. Therefore, new aspects should be included such as the creation of a monitoring and transparency framework for the awarding of private licences, also known as direct licences, an explanation on the basic principles regarding unfair re-flagging and having a legal system to regulate chartering agreements. They would like the general standards of SFPA to be applied to deep-sea fishing in third countries, both for private and public licences with the same fishing conditions.

Mr Garat and Mr Fontán reiterate that the legislative framework and action plan adopted by the Spanish Fishing Administration is commendable, and that the European Commission should encourage all EU Member States to follow this lead to ensure a level playing field in terms of transparency and control.

Action: The LDAC will monitor the review of the FAR Regulation.

6.2- New Chair of Working Group 4

Mr. Garat reports that Mr. Fontán is retiring after 40 years working at ANACEF and, therefore, CEPESCA had decided to propose Mr. Julio Morón as Chair of WG4. As a result, chairmanship of WG5 would become vacant and would have to be decided within WG5.

Furthermore, Mr. Fontán is publicly thanked for his efforts and dedication as WG Chair.

Mr. Fontán bids farewell to the members of the LDAC by means a formal letter (see attached letter under Annex II).

DECISION: The appointment of Mr. Julio Morón (OPAGAC) as new Chair of WG4 is approved by unanimity among the members present, in conformity with the LDAC statutory rules of procedure.

7- Place and date of next meeting.

The exact date is yet to be decided, but it will probably be held in October in Brussels.

8- Closure.

The meeting was closed at 13.34h.

ANNEX I. LIST OF ATTENDEES FROM WORKING GROUP 4

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

1. José Ramón Fontán. OP-ANACEF
2. Erik Olsen. Living Sea
3. Ian Gatt. Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association
4. Juan Manuel Liria. FEOPE/CEPESCA
5. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
6. Mercedes Rodríguez. OPP-Lugo
7. Sandra Sanmartin. EBCD
8. Pablo Lourenzo. AIPCE
9. Anna Boulova. AIPCE
10. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
11. Björn Stockhausen. Seas at Risk
12. Beatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
13. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
14. Michael Larionov. LZPGA
15. Javier Garat. CEPESCA/FEOPE
16. Raúl García. WWF
17. María José Cornax. OCEANA
18. Gerard Van Balsfoort. PFA
19. Aivaras Labanauskas. PFA
20. Emil Remisz. NAPO
21. Rob Banning. Dutch pelagic freezer trawler association.

OBSERVERS

22. Roberto Cesari. EC
23. Valeria Laine. EC
24. Gonzalo Herrera. EC
25. Jurate SMALSKYTĖ. EC
26. Adam Augustynowicz. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Poland
27. Irene Vidal. EJF
28. Ulrika Ekfeldt. EP
29. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC Secretariat
30. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC Secretariat
31. Marta de Lucas. LDAC Secretariat

ANNEX II. FAREWELL LETTER BY WG4 CHAIR, MR. JOSÉ RAMÓN FONTÁN
(IN SPANISH)

Queridos compañeros:

Ha sido y es un privilegio, compartir con Uds. durante 8 años, las responsabilidades de asesorar a la CE y a la DG MARE, en la defensa de la flota pesquera de larga distancia de la Unión Europea.

El LDAC existe gracias a la tenacidad de muchos de los presentes, que fuimos capaces de hacer ver a Bruselas que la pesca de Europa no empieza y termina en sus 200 millas, sino que una importante flota armada desde nuestros puertos y tripulada por nuestros marinos, da vida a los astilleros, proveedores, frigoríficos, transportistas, conserveros, transformadores, comercializadores, financieros, estibadores y restauradores de nuestra UE, pescando más allá de nuestras fronteras marítimas en todos los mares del mundo.

La pesca de larga distancia de la UE, compuesta por buques bajo bandera, mandos, tripulantes, y armadores de muchos de sus EE MM, más las inversiones pesqueras europeas en el territorio de países terceros, capturan y producen anualmente cerca de un millón de toneladas de productos de la pesca de primera calidad y riqueza proteínica para el consumo humano de las poblaciones de la Unión Europea y de otros países

Nuestra actividad profesional y humana, está siendo reconocida como la mejor del Planeta, por todos aquellos ciudadanos de los países ribereños con los que cooperamos.

Hemos formado más de 20.000 tripulantes de países en vías de desarrollo, especialmente del África Atlántica y de Sudamérica.

“No solo les hemos dado muchos peces, sino que les hemos enseñado a pescar”

Me parece personalmente un error, que la nueva Política Común de la Pesca y en especial su Dimensión Externa, no haya incorporado a las Sociedades Mixtas Pesqueras, que han sido ejemplo de transparencia, cooperación al desarrollo, respeto a la pesca sostenible y conservación del medio ambiente.

Me parece peor que a pesar de nuestros esfuerzos y demostraciones ante la Comisión, se deje que la flota de la China Popular y otras, suplanten a la flota de la UE en aguas de países terceros antiguos socios de los EE MM europeos, y además se permitan las importaciones de sus capturas efectuadas sin respetar derechos humanos ni convenciones internacionales.

Es urgente y fundamental para conservar la Flota de Larga Distancia que nos queda, que los INFORMES CIENTÍFICOS respondan a la realidad y estén actualizados.

Hasta hoy mismo, los gobernantes utilizan lo que llaman “mejores informes científicos disponibles” a su antojo y en busca de más dinero por menos buques. (Las capturas se dan por supuestas aunque no se pescase nada).



Cuando no existan los necesarios informes actualizados, hay que permitir que todos los interesados aporten su esfuerzo, datos y muestras constatables en los desembarcos controlados, para suplir la falta de información, retomando inmediatamente las series históricas necesarias para completar los informes.

En la negociación de los Acuerdos de Pesca Sostenibles, la determinación del EXCEDENTE debe responder al esfuerzo pesquero de las flotas locales y de las extranjeras al margen de la UE, y tiene que ser conocido antes de establecer medidas técnicas y contrapartidas financieras europeas privadas y públicas.

Lo que no tiene sentido es calificar a un acuerdo pesquero de SOSTENIBLE, cuando a pesar de que las poblaciones de peces gocen de buena salud, el acuerdo se denuncie porque se pretenda más dinero, ó porque a pesar de las advertencias de los pescadores UE, se hayan firmado unas condiciones de pesca que impidan rentabilizar la actividad, el grado de utilización subsiguiente sea bajo, y las autoridades UE (Tribunal de Cuentas) protesten por el grado de utilización, al tiempo que las Autoridades del país ribereño manifiesten su protesta por no percibir el importe de los cánones de licencias.

Los responsables de la pesca UE, que tanto se han esforzado en evitar los DESCARTES de capturas no comercializables, ó excedentes de la cuota del buque, no deben permitir la captura de millones de toneladas de peces para harina de pescado, que va a servir de pienso a innumerables piscifactorías que no son rentables y deben ser mantenidas con subvenciones proporcionadas a cargo de los fondos comunitarios.

La actividad pesquera de larga distancia es respetuosa con la limpieza de los mares. ¿Qué pasa con el Transporte Marítimo y las extracciones submarinas de crudo? ¿Por qué se nos utiliza ante la opinión pública como depredadores ó contaminadores?. ¿Quién tiene interés y financia que se persiga a la pesca y se olviden de éstas agresiones al Medio Ambiente?

Los acuerdos de cooperación al desarrollo y los convenios de exenciones arancelarias deben exigir la colaboración en la lucha contra la pesca IUU incluyéndolo en sus Protocolos.

Estaré siempre a disposición de éste LDAC para cuanto necesite, en defensa de la Flota de Larga Distancia.

Mi agradecimiento y recuerdo para Antonio Schiappa Cabral, gran Presidente, los compañeros de Comité Ejecutivo y Grupos de Trabajo, y los oficiales de la Comisión que nos han ayudado a lo largo de la vida del LDAC.