



## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **21<sup>st</sup> meeting of LDAC Working Group 4 Bilateral Fisheries Agreements with third countries**

**Thursday, 19 October 2017, from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Hotel Berlaymont – Boulevard de Charlemagne 11-19 – Brussels**

Chair: Mr Julio Morón  
Vice-Chair: Ms Béatrice Gorez

#### **1- Welcome and opening of the meeting.**

The chair, Mr Julio Morón, opens the meeting by thanking the representatives from the Commission and the members present for attending and participating.

***Annex I contains the list of those attending as members and observers.***

#### **2- Approval of the minutes of the last WG4 meeting – Brussels, 6 April 2017.**

The minutes of the previous meeting are adopted, including the comments made by Mr Emmanuel Berck (EC), Ms Gunilla Greig (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management), and Ms Isabelle Viallon (EC) regarding their respective speeches.

#### **3- Approval of the meeting agenda.**

The meeting agenda is approved, including point 5.4 (challenges of SFPAs), at the EC's request.

#### **4- Coherence between Community Fisheries Policies and Development Cooperation.**

##### **4.1. IOC/SMARTFISH Project: regional programme for observers in the Indian Ocean**

The representative of the European Commission's DG DEVCO, Ms Isabelle Viallon, reports that the current Smartfish programme will end next spring, with activity in the development of a regional tracking, monitoring and control plan encompassing all of eastern Africa from Somalia to South Africa. She notes that the Commission is in the phase of processing a Smartfish 2 continuation programme endowed with 13 million euros and focused on:



1. Supporting operations of regional fishing organisations in the area (mainly IOTC and SWIOFC);
2. The fight against IUU fishing, with 8 countries participating in the regional at-sea inspection programme, and with training and qualification activities for local inspectors, improvement of infrastructures and capacity-building, as well as harmonisation of national legislations;
3. The call for proposals with initiatives meant to encourage development of the local economies of Indian Ocean coastal states.

#### **4.2. PESCAO Project: international cooperation in regional governance and the fight against IUU fishing in the Gulf of Guinea**

The EC representative, Ms Isabelle Viallon, reports that the PESCAO project has been approved and the agreement with ECOWAS adopted and signed. Details are being finalised and contact maintained with the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) so that agreement can be reached on activities that will be developed in late 2017 so they can effectively begin in 2018.

#### **4.3. Project on Fisheries Governance for the development of necessary institutional capacity to strengthen governance structures in the fisheries sector in Africa.**

Ms Isabelle Viallon (EC) reports the Commission's aim to finance 3 or 4 scientific projects chosen with a view to improving knowledge about shared stocks, which is particularly important for small pelagic species. The terms of reference and pertinent calls will be prepared.

#### **4.4. European Development Fund: relationship with fisheries projects.**

Ms Isabelle Viallon (EC) indicates that the Malta Conference on Our Oceans announced the launch of a new Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme, coordinated by the delegation from the Fiji Islands. This partnership will be implemented in 15 Pacific countries, financed by 45 million from EU funds, including a contribution of 10 million euros from the Swedish government.

Regarding FishGov, the Commission does not participate in the work being done by the African Union-IBAR but they will support the admission of the WCPFC to include in their work the policy of the Pan-African Union.

Ms Viallon concludes this point by announcing that DG DEVCO is on phase of review and mapping of their funding initiatives for those programmes of regional scope.



### Questions from members and Commission responses

Mr Juan Pablo Rodríguez (ANABAC), regarding programmes the EC is launching, opines that although it seems to him quite right to equip those countries so they can cooperate in the fight against illegal fishing and have more regional monitoring programmes, it is nevertheless his impression that fishing control is becoming an end in itself and from his perspective he believes that the aim of those projects should not just be limited to illegal fishing, as there are more aspects that the EU fishing sector needs to endow with tools so that legal operators can carry out their economic fishing activities throughout the world. He hopes that the EU programmes also serve to improve the coastal countries' knowledge of their fishing activities in mutually acceptable conditions.

Ms Béatrice Gorez (CFFSA-CAPE) indicates that she agrees with the opinion of Mr Juan Pablo Rodríguez, as she believes that the results of the projects implemented up to now could be seen, as well as the results obtained. On the other hand, she asks whether the GOWAMER programme continues and asks for information about a blue growth initiative carried out in the context of the ACP countries.

The EC representative, Ms Isabelle Viallon, replies that in all programmes of this kind financed by the EU there is a monitoring and control component, as that is a demand of the developing countries in order to comply with the standards established by the EU's rules against IUU fishing. The EC is working to identify existing problems and dialogue with the states with a view to helping them resolve the problems. They know that other important external aspects must be taken into account, such as an eventual support plan for the private sector in the developing countries. The idea is to work more with the development banks; 5 sectors have already been identified for potential collaboration.

Regarding GOWAMER Project, she indicates that it will end in the month of December with a final conference in The Gambia, and believes that will be a good occasion to analyse the project's multiple results and serve as transition to the PESCAO project.

Regarding ACP, she indicates that a ministerial meeting was held in The Bahamas in September, whose conclusions she awaits. They want to adopt a regional focus to identify the respective priorities, although she notes that it could be complicated.

Mr Julio Morón (OPAGAC) asks how the LDAC's relationship with the IOC and the Smartfish programme can be improved. In Malta they held contacts with several lead officials and know that in February a meeting will be held on the regional observers programme; they hope we can receive an invitation and participate in it. Similar to what it does with COMHAFAT, the LDAC has offered to help. From his viewpoint, it seems vital to determine how the development cooperation programmes and fishing fleet control are coordinated, how they function and have continuity. Therefore, as chair of WG4, he reiterates the offer that they can count on LDAC as an interested party for the Indian Ocean. In that respect, the example of the European tuna purse-seine fleet may serve as a first step with a view to extending to other fleets operating in the country, hence the importance of coordinating the initiatives, also counting on sector support in the SFPAs.



The EC representative, Ms Isabelle Viallon, replies that this question is not new. The Commission has already conveyed this message to Smartfish and they will do the same with the programmes in Africa. She believes that the EU delegation in Mauritius could help in this regard, and also the EU delegation based in Dakar which is tasked with supervising implementation of the PESCAO project by DG MARE.

Mr Michel Goujon (ORTHONGEL) highlights that the RFMOs are going to create a regional observers programme, and that it is necessary to count the participation of industry and work together to avoid duplication and contradictions with other programmes already developed for the tuna purse-seine fleet or in the context of PPPDs.

#### **Actions:**

##### **Work with ACP:**

- **The Secretariat will ask DG DEVCO to present the provisional conclusions of the ACP Ministerial Conference held in The Bahamas in September 2018. It would be important to learn about experiences in different ACP regions and to identify their priorities;**
- **If available, the LDAC Secretariat will invite the ACP Secretariat to attend the next WG4 meeting and will exchange viewpoints about possible forms of collaboration;**
- **DG DEVCO will keep the LDAC regularly informed about the launch of an EU-financed external investment plan meant to support the private sector in developing countries with respect to various areas, including agro-food and SMEs. Members will be able to research theme areas and investment lines for possible projects for candidate partners in third countries;**
- **The Secretariat will begin contacts to meet with the EU delegation in Mauritius in order to transmit the LDAC's message so it can participate more in the Indian Ocean and take part in future SWIOFC/IOTC meetings;**
- **The LDAC will closely follow news and updates about the implementation phase of the EU-financed PESCAO Project on fishery governance and the fight against IUU fishing in West Africa, inviting lead officials or partners of the project when needed. The LDAC will attend and supply the members' viewpoints through its regular meetings with DG MARE, DG DEVCO and the EFCA upon their request or on its own initiative.**

- 5- Update by DG MARE on the state of the negotiations and technical meetings held by the Commission on the EU's behalf regarding fisheries agreements with third countries. Analysis of application of the SFPAs/PPPDs.**

The EC representatives and Assistant to the Head of the Unit for Commercial and Fisheries Agreements of DG MARE, Mr Emmanuel Berck, summarises the state of the negotiations and the EU's fisheries agreements with third countries in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.

## 5.1. Atlantic Ocean

- Morocco: This agreement is very important, with the protocol set to expire on 14 July 2018. A joint committee will be convened the week after this meeting and address technical questions, compulsory boarding, landing percentages for small pelagic species and catch composition.

- Mauritania: The year 2016 Joint Committee was successful, enabling decisions to be made and very significant progress regarding transparency, technical conditions, notification deadlines, boarding conditions or rate setting, among others. Fishing conditions are nevertheless more complex in the pelagic species category, as there is competition with European vessels. The EC has followed this very thoroughly and the objectives seem to be making progress.

- Senegal: Going well, with a meeting of the joint committee in spring. No major news.

- Gambia: A political change has taken place. They are interested in having a fisheries agreement with the EU, whereby the EC is evaluating whether they can enter into a fisheries agreement with them. The evaluation study will be ready in February or March 2018. The EU is interested in it as an accessory fishing ground due to its location adjacent to Senegal.

- Cabo Verde: Negotiations will begin in 2018.

- Guinea-Bissau: Negotiation to renew the agreement began March 2017; there have been major discrepancies, above all in the economic package. When dealing with the economic conditions they demand things that are relatively unrealistic. The EC is organising a joint committee with them, necessary in the current framework, after which, if there are positive elements, they will call a new meeting.

On the other hand, the Guinean administration drew up a proposal to shift from a system of calculation by capacity and fishing effort (KW.) to a quota system. Although such a system is more transparent vis-à-vis compliance verification, it requires adjustment and many tracking tools. Each year a meeting of the Joint Scientific Committee is held. There has been notable improvement in capacity and in the tracking of catches and the ERS system could be implemented soon, whereby real-time management of the fishing grounds could improve, granting the possibility of opening fisheries for small pelagic species. This would entail revision of the agreement's economic volume.

- Ghana: There is concern about compliance with the legislation against IUU fishing of this country. They have a complex situation, like what happens in Tanzania. Although it was thought that they would make more progress, there has not been much reaction by this country.

- São Tomé and Príncipe: This is an agreement that works very well. It is the first country in the region to have installed the ERS system, and there is quota consumption suitable for the European fleet. Negotiations are expected to begin in late 2017 or early 2018.

- Côte d'Ivoire: The evaluation has been completed with satisfactory results; the European Commission is waiting to receive the negotiation mandate from the Council and Parliament, which should occur toward the end of the year or in early 2018. The protocol expires on 30 June 2018.

- Liberia: Agreement which is not very large in financial outlay but important as it is new with respect to learning. Presidential elections will be held soon.

- Gabon: The protocol expired on 23 July 2016. Contacts have continued since then, despite the complex political situation they are undergoing, which has not prevented meeting with them. Nevertheless, before sitting down to negotiate they have to resolve past problems such as catch levels and fees to pay for the 2015-2016 period. They have historically had very high catch volumes for the European seining fleet, whereby this agreement is economically important for the government of Gabon.
- Greenland: An agreement that works well. They have two large European industrial vessels devoted to prawn fishing.

## 5.2. Indian Ocean

- Mozambique: They have maintained contact; the authorities of this country have expressed their interest in improving dialogue with them, but the EU imposes certain conditions, such as the debate over historical catches, or certain issues from joint committees. They are waiting for a response from Mozambique that they hope will be more flexible vis-à-vis their conditions.
- Comoro Islands: An agreement that was interrupted. The protocol expired last year and they have a red card for problems managing and controlling their waters. The EC had to make a proposal to the Council and to the EP with a view to sending a clear message based on warning them that with a red card they cannot gain access to agreements. Until things change they will be unable to advance. They need at least 6 months; when the complaint has been dealt with they can resume negotiations.
- Kenya: Negotiations halted because elections are under way.
- Tanzania: Although it is a country that had shown informal interest, for the last two years they have had no mandate to negotiate.
- Madagascar: The agreement with Madagascar works well as a complement to Seychelles; there is collaboration in marine fields beyond fishing. There is an intention for investment and development, whereby in his opinion it is an interesting country.
- Seychelles: The main problem they encounter is the lag time or delay in use of EU sector support funds. But going well in the use of quotas and fisheries activity.

## 5.3. Pacific Ocean

- Kiribati: Negotiations resumed after a two-year interval and the demands and expectations of Kiribati seem reasonable. The last negotiation did not go well, but they expressed their interest in improving the conditions of future agreements. They have nevertheless been identified with a yellow card for illegal fishing; however, these negotiations run parallel.
- Cook Islands: The agreement was unable to reach its full potential. It is necessary to convene a joint committee, tentatively envisaged for late January.



## Round of questions by members and replies from the Commission

Ms Rocío Béjar (CEPESCA) highlights the Spanish cephalopod fleet's concern owing to finalisation of the agreement with Guinea-Bissau next 23 November. She requests information about the recent meeting between the EC and the delegation from Guinea-Bissau and asks about the possibility of it eventually being extended.

The EC representative, Mr Berck, replies that the reason for the visit to Guinea-Bissau was not related to negotiating the fishing agreement per se but rather to the work of routine follow-up of sector support initiatives. The EC is waiting for the country to show real interest and to show flexibility in the negotiation. As soon as they do so they will resume contact on this issue. Regarding extension of the agreement, they indicate that it is difficult and that when the agreement expires, even if signed per the same terms and conditions, it will have to undergo all the procedures for co-decision by European institutions, which entails an average period of around 5 months.

Mr Rob Banning (PFA) asks about the fishing of small pelagic species and the unlimited growth of fishmeal in Mauritania. Although not authorised to fish within 20 miles to protect the sardine stock, the Turkish fleet is now fishing it.

The EC representative, Mr Christian Rambaud, replies that three weeks ago the EC held a Joint Committee meeting. The negotiator set down in the minutes that 40 vessels are immobilised in port and that they will not be freed until they pay the corresponding fines. On the other hand, he reports that from 2017 to 2020 the meal plants will be dismantled so that those efforts can be redirected to direct human food; indeed, the cost of exporting meal has been increased to discourage operators regarding this practice. Also, he highlights that 10 October was the deadline for meeting certain commitments. On 11 October they were sent a large amount of documentation with a view to increasing transparency, although the fisheries' modus operandi is missing. While they have improved, the question remains of how to help Mauritania sustainably profit from its pelagic resources.

Mr Raúl García (WWF) opines on the importance of these prior negotiations as a tool or incentive for improving governance by means of compliance with regulations, and no longer a mere paid tool for accessing resources. He furthermore advocates carrying out educative work and multilateral negotiation at the level of RFMOs and cites as an example the amendment to the Convention and the proposal on attached fins. They note that DG MARE is making a major effort with DG DEVCO and other units with a view to achieving better coordination. However, by way of example, he names two specific aspects: on-board inspections in which countries like São Tomé and Gabon seem to contravene certain aspects or conditions of the protocols, and regarding Morocco he highlights that it has never had a card warning but has conversely used drift nets. He therefore requests that after the 5 million euros supplied by the EU for fleet improvement, pressure should be exerted so that this aspect can prosper.

Mr Christian Rambaud (EC) replies that a key tool of law will be the new regulation on sustainable management of the EU's external fishing fleet (SMEFF), which is expected to be adopted at the end of the year.



Regarding the strategy in the Indian Ocean, he explains that DG MARE is working at different levels, trying to collaborate and work jointly and in a coordinated manner, attempting to use all possible tools to make progress in bilateral relations. He nevertheless indicates that the regional dynamics with the IOTC are a manner of working that goes beyond the bilateral.

Ms Juana Parada (ORPAGU) wants to denounce the situation of inspections in São Tomé. She explains that her organisation possesses five community-flagged surface longliners which process on board and fish with valid fishing licence in the waters of São Tomé's EEZ. The protocol stipulates that during an inspection two duly identified inspectors from São Tomé can come on board. Nevertheless, in the specific case she complains of, more than ten armed military personnel came on board along with personnel from the Sea Shepherd ecological organisation, who produced a photographic report on board, after which they received last week an infraction for having processed on board, in so far as they consider gutting and heading to be transformation.

After these occurrences they put out a press release titled "*Criminal Activities Used by the Spanish Fleet*". Ms Parada (ORPAGU) stresses that that is inadmissible, underscoring that it was an act of piracy outside the protocol's rules. At present, the five longliners do not dare enter São Tomé and she believes that is putting at risk the crews' safety. Given the seriousness of the facts, she wants the LDAC to write a letter in that respect, complaining about their current situation of hardship.

Mr Julio Morón (OPAGAC) wants to reinforce what Ms Parada explained, highlighting that many countries use the Sea Shepherd organisation to fleet their boats for inspections. The community freezer seining fleets in waters of countries such as Liberia, Gabon and São Tomé have suffered from this.

The EC representative, Mr Christian Rambaud, indicates that they are aware of those facts. He notes that those practices are totally illegal inspection methods. The EC will send a letter in response to the record of inspection received with the fine and with the interpretation they make of the rule. They are going to ask the São Tomé and Príncipe authorities to ensure that this situation is not repeated this year. He notes that similar circumstances occurred 15 days ago in Liberia which tarnish the image of the countries, hence the EC attempts to fight against this. Regarding the inspections presumably coordinated by the Sea Shepherd organisation, he requests more information in that regard, accompanied by evidence.

#### **Actions:**

- **The Commission will place at disposal the reports from the Joint Committees on the fishing agreements with third countries once they are available (concealing names of participants and sensitive information for data protection reasons) and will invite interested parties when possible;**
- **At ORPAGU's request, the LDAC Secretariat will prepare and distribute a letter for its approval by fast-track procedure, denouncing recent inspections and the issuance of press releases against EU seining and longline vessels under the coordination and supervision of Sea Shepherd in waters of the EEZ of São Tomé and Príncipe, Gabon and Liberia. The letter will provide specific examples.**





### 5.3. Future challenges of the Fishing Agreements/SFPAs

The Commission representative and Head of the Unit for Commercial and Fisheries Agreements of DG MARE, Mr Christian Rambaud, regarding how the fisheries agreements work, proposed that the LDAC reflect about:

- 1) How to achieve better functioning in practice of the bilateral agreements, in so far as EU's focus should begin to be expanded, and not just limited to extractive fishing; thought should also be given to how to jointly work in the interest of sustainable fishing and enhancement of the blue economy, and in sync with the commitments acquired at the Our Oceans Conference in Malta;
- 2) How to improve the image of the community fleet and of European fishing investments in third country signatories of fisheries agreements: the European fleet has progressed a great deal vis-à-vis sustainability in the last 20 years. Nevertheless, he believes that that progress is not valued and that its image has not improved in some third countries. Hence it is asked whether the LDAC considers the general image of the European fleet (tuna, pelagic and demersal) to be good and, if not positive, what can be done to improve it. He highlights that image and reputation are an important factor for collaboration agreements and believes that the LDAC can contribute much to this debate with its ideas;
- 3) How to define a European Fisheries Strategy for the Atlantic and Indian Oceans: He asks whether the European fleets have a short, middle and long term strategy and if they consider that they can continue exploiting the resources of the Atlantic and Indian oceans in the way that they do. He believes that a reflection by all parties involved is vital, not just the sector but also NGOs, making clear what is aimed for (e.g. food security, decent employment and working conditions, women's equality, boosting the role of artisanal fishing, etc).  
It would also be very positive to show stories, projects and initiatives that already work, good practices or success cases.

Mr Julio Morón, chair of WG5/OPAGAC, indicates that the LDAC will reflect about these points and try to answer all the questions posed beforehand. He suggests using as a departure document the reflections from the WWF's work, a proposal supported by the WG4 members present.

Regarding examples of success, he notes that there are numerous cases of financial activities that are generating wealth in different countries, as the community fishing companies with investments abroad may be. He believes it would be very positive to conduct a study together with DG MARE that quantifies the positive socioeconomic impacts generated around fishing and underscores the effect achieved by the fisheries agreements.

Mr Emmanuel Berck, EC representative, reports that on 23 November the Agreement with Mauritius will be signed. This may be a good example as this agreement goes beyond fishing; indeed, for its implementation it counts various policy objectives, experience exchanges, synergies for use of marine resources and promotion of the blue economy, among others.

## **Actions**

- **WG4 will consider the questions drawn up by the Head of the Fisheries Agreements Unit, Mr Rambaud, in writing and based on the study published by the WWF as departure point, regarding:**

- 1. How to improve communication about the value of the SFPAs signed with third countries and raise the profile and image of the EU fishing fleet operating in those waters;**
- 2. Provision of examples of success stories with socioeconomic return from fishing activities of the EU fleet in the EEZ of third countries (landing in ports, job creation, etc), as well as the EU's fishing investments in third countries (factories and processing plants, etc);**
- 3. Show specific examples of benefits from the fishing activity of the EU fleet regarding the development of coastal ports and communities of third countries (e.g. Dakar, Nouadhibou, Port Louis, Mindelo and Abidjan, etc).**

- **The three previous questions could be included in a parallel event or workshop on the value of SFPAs in the Atlantic and Indian oceans. Furthermore, the aspects of the agreements on access and gender questions will be included, along with the application of the FAO's voluntary fishing guidelines, the use of sector support and the interconnection with development cooperation.**

### **6- The role of fishing agents in Africa and their impact on sustainable fishing.**

Ms Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE) presents a draft proposed opinion on the role of fishing agents in African coastal countries that are signatories of fishing agreements. They indicate that they have analysed national and international regulations on fishing agents, because their role is very important for the operation of fishing vessels. She nevertheless notes that there are services for which an intermediary is needed without their eventual status or fees being clear, and that cases of collusion of interests with politicians or corruption may occur. She would therefore like to have more information about the rules governing those agents and about what their responsibilities are. If possible, she would also like the prices or rates charged to fishing companies for the supply of different services to be indicated. She would like to count the opinion of industry regarding inclusion of this information on the role, qualification and responsibility of agents as conditions in the protocols of fisheries agreements. She is aware that, particularly for the case of mobile fleets that target highly migratory or trans-zone species, there are problems even when transiting the waters of a country's EEZ. The LDAC members support this initiative but ask to examine closely the letter's content before taking a stand.

#### **Action:**

- **The Secretariat will distribute the proposal written by CFFA-CAPE (Ms Béatrice Gorez) in the three languages so that comments can be made and, if agreed on, it can subsequently be adopted.**



## **7- Update on the Fishing Transparency Initiative (FiTI).**

Mr Sven Biermann of the FiTI Secretariat gives a presentation which can be found on the LDAC website via the following link:

<http://ldac.ldac.eu/attachment/aabbdcaf-b943-4345-b66a-e55d58f73215>

This is notably a voluntary tool to enhance fishing management and to better understand the environment in which it operates. It also underscores the competitive disadvantage of European industry with other operators vis-à-vis the transparency of respective activities, an aspect already identified at the International Conference held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in 2015, organised by the LDAC.

### **7.1. Results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference – Bali, 27 April 2017**

- Establishment of the Global FiTI Standard
- Convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> International FiTI Management Board
- Presentation of the status of pilot countries participating in FiTI

### **7.2. Progress in the work of countries pertaining to FiTI**

To comply with transparency, governments should count all the information presented in standardised form so it can be disseminated. This will help improve the transparency crisis currently existing in many of the world's fisheries. At present people do not view as reliable the vessel registration information because it is often contradictory, at least in the public domain.

Notable on the other hand is that with a view to implementation of the project, four questions should be answered: if information is available, if it is available for any person, if it is understood to be accessible and if a complete registry exists.

### **7.3 Composition and functions of the International Board**

The FiTI initiative currently comprises 5 pilot countries: Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Seychelles and Indonesia. There is a 6-step implementation protocol which, if fulfilled, obtains endorsement from the Council, automatically making the country a candidate to develop FiTI. They should later create a multi-stakeholder group to set in motion the gathering and publication of the requested information.

On the other hand, it is indicated that Seychelles recently publicly committed to hosting the permanent headquarters of the International Secretariat.

### **7.4 Calendar of upcoming meetings and events.**

The FiTI Secretariat will inform the LDAC Secretariat of future meetings and they will also be publicly indicated on its website: <http://fisheriestransparency.org/>



## **8- Collaboration and Partnership between the LDAC and ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT:**

### **8.1. Conclusions of the meeting of the Think Tank on Piracy in the Atlantic Ocean (Tangier, 18-19 September)**

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary General, reports that a meeting was held on Piracy in the Atlantic Ocean, which the LDAC was unable to attend owing to scheduling reasons, as it was held on very short notice. The meeting's aim was to better understand the piracy phenomenon from an economic, social and legal standpoint, gain a better grasp of the current situation and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of maritime security on Africa's Atlantic coast; to learn about the different initiatives and their implementation; to examine the results and identify application problems in the African context; and to propose new solutions to more effectively fight maritime piracy.

COMHAFAT subsequently sent the LDAC Secretariat a short summary with the meeting's conclusions, which establishes the year 2050 as the time limit for achieving total coordination of personnel and regulations in the fight against piracy. A proposal was made to conduct a thorough review of all regulatory provisions and agreements, including ECOWAS as well as the strategy in the Gulf of Guinea to respond to seizures occurring in that area and respective requests for ransom payment. The coastal states were also urged to modify their legislation and endow themselves with the necessary means in order to adjust to international rules and improve their implementation.

The WG4 chair, Mr Julio Morón, adds that an attempt should be made to direct those initiatives with a view to improving fisheries control and management.

#### **Action:**

**- The LDAC Secretariat will ask COMHAFAT to share the report from its Think Tank on piracy in the Atlantic Ocean, held in Morocco in September 2017, as soon as it is available. The Secretariat will distribute that report, along with any additional information, to the WG4 members.**

### **8.2. 10<sup>th</sup> COMHAFAT Ministerial Conference (Abidjan, early 2018)**

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary General, notes that it is a biannual meeting and that although it should have already taken place, its tenth meeting will finally be held in early 2018. The LDAC has been invited to take part in this meeting as a privileged partner and liaison intermediary with the EU.

### **8.3. Working priorities and areas of future collaboration to debate at the annual coordination meeting between the LDAC and COMHAFAT (January 2018)**

Pursuant to what is stipulated in the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between COMHAFAT and the LDAC, the holding of the annual coordination meeting is announced. Last year's took place at the Fisheries Control Agency in Vigo, and plans call for the 2018 one to be held in Madrid or Rabat, whereby the date will be announced as soon as it is set and an LDAC delegation will be invited to actively participate.



## **9- Other questions proposed by members, observers and Secretariat:**

### **9.1. Creation of an ad hoc session with DG MARE on sector support in fisheries agreements – SFPAs (transparency in fund use, gender equality aspects and role of women in local development)**

Ms Gunilla Tegelskär Greig of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management provides a brief overview of this subject, highlighting that it is an honour to be able to discuss these issues in a specific group. Indeed, in Mauritius they debated topics such as the FAO's voluntary artisanal fishing guidelines, fisheries agreements and even gender questions. In her opinion, it is an opportunity to have more comprehensive information and to improve coherence between different community policies. Indeed, she believes that such agreements could be greatly improved by including the gender equality aspect.

Mr Julio Morón, the chair of WG4/OPAGAC, suggests including sector support and the effects the SFPAs have in the replies to the questions of Mr Rambaud, to forward to the EC.

### **9.2. Report from the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Fisheries and Agriculture Ministers of the ACP Countries (The Bahamas, 18-19 September 2017)**

Ms Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE) indicates that she cannot report as there is no declaration. She proposes that the message for the ACP countries be oceanic governance.

Mr Julio Morón, chair of WG4/OPAGAC, suggests that this issue be debated in WG5.

### **9.3. FARFISH Project: case studies in third countries**

The Executive Secretary, Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, reports that the LDAC is a project member with a budget of approximately 100,000 euros over a four-year period.

The project aims to achieve as a general objective improved knowledge and management of fishing in non-European waters, besides contributing to sustainability and financial profitability of European fleets in the long term. The specific goals include improving knowledge and gathering data about main stocks, mapping fisheries, proposed recommendations, analysis of practices or the development of management plans, among others. The LDAC's role is mainly to participate in selected case studies for Morocco, Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Seychelles, Senegal or the Southwest Atlantic (international waters) and Southeast Atlantic (SEAFO). The fisheries' characterisations for the different case studies will be forwarded to the members, asking them to review them and supply any useful information.

**Action:** The Secretariat will send information about future meetings as well as the descriptive characterisation of the case studies on tropical tuna and mixed fisheries so that interested members can provide comments and contributions. Also, the members will be informed about the status of the selection procedure for hiring an LDAC project coordinator.

## **10- Date and place of the next WG4 meeting.**

The LDAC Secretariat will provide information about the specific place and date of the next meeting, to be held in Brussels in the month of March.

**The meeting closes at 6:35 p.m.**



## **ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **LDAC Working Group 4 Brussels, 19 October 2017**

#### **WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

1. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
2. Despina Symons. EBCD
3. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
4. Raúl García. WWF
5. Mireille Thom. WWF
6. Esther Hidas. WWF
7. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
8. Edelmiro Ulloa. Anapa / Anamer / Acemix / Agarba
9. Rocío Béjar. CEPESCA
10. Rob Banning. PFA
11. Juan Pablo Rodríguez. ANABAC
12. Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL
13. Caroline Mangalo. CNPMMEM
14. Beatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
15. Frédéric Le Manach. BLOOM
16. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
17. Jose Manuel Fdez. Beltrán. OPP-Lugo
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19. Anna Boulova. FRUCOM
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