

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**THE LDAC CELEBRATES ITS 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH RENEWAL OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND AN AMBITIOUS WORK PLAN FOR THE “SUPER YEAR” FOR THE OCEANS**



Photo caption: Alexandre Rodríguez (General Secretary), Iván López van der Veen (Chair) and Isabel Artime (Director General for Sustainable Fisheries, MAPA-Spain)

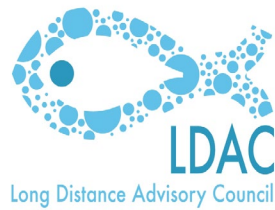
**Madrid, 31st May 2022.-**

The LDAC held successfully its [Annual General Assembly](#) and [Executive Committee](#) meetings in hybrid format (Madrid/Zoom) on 18 May with a clear route map for the second half of the year.

The meetings were opened by the Director General of the Fisheries Secretariat of Spain, Ms. Isabel Artime, who unveiled the content of the Draft Spanish Bill on Sustainable Fishing approved by the Government on the day before. This presentation was followed by an update of the priorities of the European Commission on the External Dimension of the CFPs by the Acting Director of International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries in DG MARE, Mr Anders Jessen.

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The main outcomes of the LDAC meetings were the approval of the LDAC accounts and work programme for 2022-2023 and the elections for the Chair, Vice Chairs and members of the Executive Committee for a three year-term (June 2022-May 2025). Iván López van der Veen (AGARBA-ARVI) was re-elected as Chair for a third mandate. Vanya Vulperhost (OCEANA) was appointed new First Vice Chair and NGO coordinator, in succession of Béatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE). Juan Manuel Liria (CEPESCA) and Marc Ghiglia (CNPMEM-UAPF) were also re-elected as Second and Third Vice Chairs on behalf of the fishing sector.

Regarding the membership of the ExCom, there was a total of 23 seats filled out of 25, with only 2 vacancies on the Other Interest Groups (8 of 10). For the fishing sector, the 15 seats were fully occupied. For the catching sub-sector, Spain got three seats, followed by France with two seats; Portugal, Ireland, The Netherlands, Estonia, Lithuania, Germany, Denmark and Poland retained one seat. The remaining two seats were for EU organisations representing trade unions (ETF) and processing and trading (AIPCE-CEP).

On policy recommendations, the members of the LDAC Executive Committee adopted an important piece of advice on the [inclusion and implementation of the social clause on the Sustainable Fishing Partnership Agreements \(SFPAs\)](#). There was also a debate on a proposal for advice based on a presentation given of the [Environmental Justice Foundation \(EJF\) report on the impact of documented cases of IUU Fishing by the Chinese Distant Water Fleets](#).

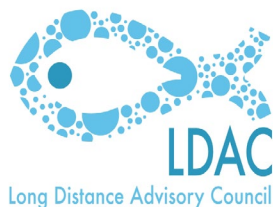
In terms of work planning for the second half of the year, the LDAC agreed to focus its efforts in setting up dedicated Focus Groups to issue a number of recommendations on a variety of topics such as implementation of Green Deal and energy efficiency; fight against IUU fishing, conservation and management measures on RFMOs (IOTC, ICCAT and NAFO); promotion of regional Fisheries management for small pelagic and demersal species in West Africa; or improving cooperation with Morocco in fisheries management and control, as well as labour and social aspects.

In relation to representation and outreach, a LDAC delegation will be present and actively participate in a number of international meetings in the field of International Ocean Governance such as the [EU CFP Report Stakeholder Event](#) (10 June), coordination with ICES on Ecosystem and Mixed Fisheries Approach (MIACO, 22-23 June) or contributions to the [UN SDG14 Conference in Lisbon \(27 June-2 July\)](#).

The LDAC also agreed to look at the possibility of organising high level workshops to highlight the value and role of artisanal fishers in third countries beneficiaries of SFPAs, within the framework of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA); promoting the role of European fishing investments in third countries and its contribution to socio-economic development; and giving recognition and visibility to the role of women in fisheries.

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Last, the LDAC Secretariat launched a memory video in commemoration of its 15 years of existence and in tribute to its first Chair, Antonio Cabral, deceased in 2016. This video is available in the e-newsletter “Fishing Far” and in the [LDAC website](#).

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#### **Information note - About LDAC**

The **Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC)** gained legal recognition in 2004 with EU Council Decision 585/2004. It was declared operational in May 2007 with the adoption of Commission Decision 2007/206/EC and is enshrined in CFP Regulation (EU) 1380/2013. The LDAC receives European co-funding as a body pursuing an aim of European interest.

Its mission is to provide advice to the European Institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) and EU Member States on matters related to Fisheries Agreements with Third Countries, relations with Regional Fisheries Organizations (RFOs) in which the EU is a signing party, or with international organizations in whose waters the Community Fleet is operating, as well as on business relations and the international market for fishing products.

It is currently composed by 52 organisations from 11 EU coastal Member States representing stakeholders of both the fishing sector (including catching, processing and marketing sectors, and trade unions), and other groups of interest (environmental NGOs, consumers and civil society).

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