



Attn: Ms. Evans
General Director DG MARE
Brussels

Madrid, November 26th 2014

Subject: Problems with shipments of Moroccan seamen

Dear General Director:

On behalf of Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) I would like to draw your attention about the problems that are suffering the European fishing vessels operating under the agreement signed between Morocco and the European Union to embark Moroccan seamen required.

As you know, the content of the protocol establishes the obligation to carry on board Moroccan national sailors. European fishing vessels are fulfilling, nevertheless the problem is that many do not want to work on a ship and learn the trade. This means that both the lives of all personnel on board, as the safety of the ship itself endangered. Also in recent weeks there have been several cases of Moroccan crew, who do not appear at the departure of the vessel, implying that have become illegal immigrants.

Because of this situation many shipping companies cannot continue to endure the difficulties that this entails and if continued may mean the ruin of many.

As some of the representatives of your General Direction have informed us, in the negotiation of the protocol was made clear that sailors must be experienced, even with a minimum experience of six months and that the choice of them is free and corresponds to the shipping company. However, this assumption is violated repeatedly since there is no availability of sailors from the official list, or on several occasions after signing their contract and deliver the particular provisions decide to leave, ignoring the authorities' portⁱ.

All these circumstances imply that shipping companies have to endure delays on the departures of their ships, which translates into large expenses.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to take the necessary steps to correct this situation and ensure that the content of the protocol is being fulfilled by Morocco.

We remain at your disposal, yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Cabral', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Antonio Cabral
President

ⁱ Please find attached some real examples