

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

Director-General

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Mr António Schiappa Cabral Chairman of LDRAC C/Velázquez 41, 4°C 28001 Madrid SPAIN

Subject: Recommendation on ban on transhipment at sea by vessels fishing species managed by tuna RFMOs

Dear Mr Schiappa Cabral,

Thank you for your letter concerning the Recommendation of the Long Distance RAC regarding the ban on transhipment at sea by vessels fishing species managed by tuna regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

I would like to assure you that the European Community strongly supports this measure and will continue advocating the adoption of the ban by all relevant tuna RFMOs. The EC will equally encourage development of alternative solutions in cases where such a ban would be impossible to implement due to international law restrictions, as is the case with ICCAT where at sea-transhipment is allowed under certain conditions such as the ICCAT Regional Observer Program.

Yours sincerely,

Fokion FOTIADIS