



## CONSEJO CONSULTIVO REGIONAL DE FLOTA DE LARGA DISTANCIA EN AGUAS NO COMUNITARIAS

CHAIRMAN PROPORSAL, Mr. D. Julio Morón  
Approved by the Executive Committee  
Reference: R-03-10/WG5

### **ADVICE OF THE LONG DISTANCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL RELATING TO THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE REFORM OF THE CFP.**

Complementing the advice of the LDRAC position regarding “the reform of the CFP” issued on the 24<sup>th</sup> de November 2009 and in consideration of the ideas presented by the European Commission relating to the external dimension of the future reform, the LDRAC in an ad hoc meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at the European Parliament has decided to adopt the following conclusions to be forwarded to the European Commission.

#### **Conclusions of the ad hoc meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May in Brussels, at the European Parliament:**

#### **Objectives**

Besides establishing the main objective of the CFP, as the previous advice<sup>1</sup> reflects, the CFP should also aim to ensure a system of production for fishery products, from production to final consumers, in which principles of sustainable trade will also be applied, in the way of which communitarian market will contribute to improving the sustainability of all fisheries of which it receive products.

The main objective of the CFP should be based on the best science available and for that, the new CFP should create a mechanism for promoting technical assistance by fishery researchers, applied to sustainable and responsible fisheries management. This mechanism should have financial support and professional recognition for career scientists that contribute with their research to technical and scientific advice to the fisheries management.

#### **Governance**

LDRAC members consider essential that decisions have to be taken as objective as possible, and that transparency and responsibility with the industry could be improved. It also believes that, an advisory and open decision framework must be created for scientists, fisheries industry, civil

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<sup>1</sup> *The overall objective of the CFP, including its external dimension, should be to promote responsible and sustainable fisheries (at environmental, social and economic level...). The objective should be the development of a competitive and profitable fisheries industry at a communitarian level, able to supply the European market with high quality products through right establishment of communitarian rules (in terms of health, environment, traceability, etc)*



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society, trade union, and communitarian and member states legislators, including both external communitarian fisheries industry and processor and marketer industry as a whole. This should involve all services of the European Commission in areas where fishing has some impact such as health, social issues, trade, cooperation and development with third countries, maritime policy, safety at work, food security, environment, protection etc. The LDRAC insists on the need to ensure coherence for development through all EU policies affecting developing countries fisheries, including through the CFP reform among these different EU policies and to develop a strong common external policy.

Regarding the future of the RAC itself, the LDRAC will have to be integrated in the context of regionalization. It is also proposed to focus on ecosystems. It is needed to have an approach fishery by fishery but also to address in a horizontal way the issues common to the whole external fleet (i.e. market aspects). In any case, the new management system has to respond to the specificities of each fishery and ecosystem.

### ***Regional Fisheries Organization***

The presentation made by DG Mare on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at the meeting relating to the “External Dimension of the future of the Common Fisheries Policy”, contains nearly all the elements that LDRAC noted in its advice on the 24<sup>th</sup> de November 2009 The LDRAC is pleased about the change of the new approach of the DG MARE compared with the view posed by the Green Paper. However, the LDRAC would like to propose to develop a program to reassert the value of the scientific work enabling young scientists to be involved in scientific assessment carried out in RFMOs. Such initiative would help to improve the coordination of the scientific work in the context of the RFMOs. According to the LDRAC, DG Mare and DG Research should be more committed and the procedure should be rationalized.

Besides, the LDRAC asks the Commission to support the harmonization of the management measures concerning the conservation of sharks among the RFMOs. The LDRAC also considers that the Commission should adopt the necessary actions to preserve the good image of the RFMOs and to avoid in the public opinion any kind of confusion with the particular situation of ICCAT.

### ***Partnership Agreement and Fisheries Governance***

Likewise, the LDRAC also recognizes that the vision presented by the DG Mare on April 28<sup>th</sup> contains many valid points that must be integrated into the reform of Fishery Agreements, although there are some issues to clarify that the LDRAC hopes to coordinate with the DG Mare



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in the second part of the Seminar that DG Mare will convene shortly.

Regarding the administration of the FPAs, the LDRAC is fully ready to cooperate with the DG Mare and to assist the Commission to ensure a better and quicker management system. To simplify the current system, the LDRAC proposes the producers' organizations (PO) to be in charge of processing fishery licenses as it can free up work of the DG MARE and make licensing process in line with fishing operations.

In such hypothesis, the operators could send directly the required information to the relevant third countries authorities. If this was the case, it should strictly follow the provisions of the agreements, on the number and type of licences. Moreover, it should be ensured that all information related to licences issued for community vessels are regularly transmitted to the European Commission in order to ensure a correct implementation of the agreement.

Therefore, such new competences assigned to the POs should be foreseen by the reform of the Common Market Organization (CMO). Regarding this matter, the LDRAC considers not appropriate to wait the reform of the CFP to start the reform of the CMO and so asks the Commission to address this issue as soon as possible.

Transparency regarding the negotiation and implementation of the agreement should be improved, including allowing the use of information from the database FIDES Detailed information on vessels and catches by fishing gear and species that each State Member carries out should be collected and made available to the stakeholders, in order to know the true degree of utilization of the agreement and to ensure transparency in the system of allocating the fishing opportunities among Member States..

In order to give more responsibility to the stakeholders in the implementation of the CFP and to enrich the negotiating process at a technical level, the participation of stakeholders in the negotiations of the FPAs regarding the technical aspects should be more structured. Such involvement will facilitate the management and the functioning of the FPAs. The LDRAC would like to insist on the need to ensure the more possible transparency and involvement of the stakeholders in this process, including stakeholders from the third country concerned.

The LDRAC reaffirms the principle stated in its advice dated on the 24<sup>th</sup> de November 2009<sup>2</sup> stating that public funding should continue to exist to cover the costs for sectorial support to the third country fisheries.

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<sup>2</sup> *The LDRAC calls for a distinction between the cost of access for the long distance fleet of the EU (cost covers by the owners vessels that represents a fair share (1) of catch value) and financial balancing entry of EPA for aid for development.*



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The members of the LDRAC agreed that the operators should bear the cost of access to resources. However, the financing of the development of the fisheries sector in third country, (social, scientific, administrative, and civil support) should be assumed by the European Commission. To that end, the LDRAC strongly supports the idea of the Commission of making a clear distinction between the costs.

In order to have a good assessment of the economic value of access to the resources, an analysis of the costs benefits analysis of the FPA in each country should be done. Such study should take into account all activities linked to the presence of the EU fleet: direct and indirect employment, port activity, direct and indirect taxes, services generated by the fleet, processing fisheries products activities, direct cost of the fleet, etc. LD RAC underlines the importance of EU catches in context of supplying basic source of proteins to large number of people in developing countries,

The LDRAC concurs with the proposal from the DG Mare to include in fisheries agreements the clauses regarding Human Rights, Democratic Principles, Anti-corruption, Independent Auditing, Transparency and Exclusivity. However, regarding the exclusivity clause and in order to not hamper the activities of fleet at specific moments, the industry feels that agreements must maintain flexibility to obtain fishing opportunities for all Communitarian Vessels for all applicants, maintaining limits for exploitation that surplus resources of third countries allows and regulations of RFMO. Finally, the LDRAC would like also to ask the Commission to consider the assessment of how the FPAs social clause has been implemented.

### ***Matters pending***

LDRAC requests that at the next meeting of the External Dimension, the DG Mare make progress on elements that need definitions due to their extreme importance to External Dimension of the Reform of the CFP:

- Framework for external fleet segments.
- Framework of investment regulation in third countries.
- Framework of competitiveness of the external communitarian fleet in order to achieve a fair competence with third parties ("level playing field").
- Responsible trade management framework for fishery products.
- Location of the Common Market Organization in the CFP reform