



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES**

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
MARE.B1/LH/ae/ARES (2012)

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

Subject: Your letter of 5 June 2012

Dear Mr Schiappa Cabral,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June where you expressed some concerns about the current working relations between the European Commission and the Long Distance RAC. Let me focus on the specific points you raised in your letter.

The Commission bases its proposals on fisheries management on the advice from ICES and the STECF. This is the approach for the measures adopted or proposed for EU waters, as well as for the EU positions in the context of the RFMOs and FPAs. In the international context we have the same procedure in place to review the scientific advice provided by ICES and scientific bodies of RFMOs. Regarding FPAs, we have established an international dimension Experts Working Group (EWG) that recently analysed how the surplus concept should be considered and how surplus should be estimated for specific cases.

In order to ensure transparency in the scientific advisory process, STECF Expert Working Group meetings are open to observers. RACs receive regular information on the work programme of STECF and their members may register for a specific Working Group on the STECF web page under observer status, following the associated rules. According to the selection procedure, preference will be given to RAC members if there are more requests for attendance than space available. Also, RACs are expected to coordinate a balanced participation through their secretariats before individual observers' registrations are made for EWGs. Concerning the recent meeting of the international dimension EWG, the Long Distance RAC was informed about this meeting and could have attended as an observer.

The RFMO conference of 1 June 2012 was aimed at representatives of RFMOs and top fisheries managers of Member States as well as Members of the European Parliament. The conference was announced on DG MARE's website, but I am sorry if you were not actively informed. If you are interested, you can still watch the entire conference which is still online at:

<http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/eutv/portal/archive.html?viewConference=15690>.

I also enclose the summary report of this event.

Concerning the future role and functioning of the Advisory Council under the reformed CFP, let me reassure you that, over and above the ongoing dialogue of DG MARE with the various RACs and following the Inter-RAC meeting earlier this year, we are currently preparing the necessary steps for consulting the RACs on this. You will shortly be informed about the exact form and timing of this consultation, which is an important part of the CFP reform.

As you know, the final shape of the reform is still under discussion in the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. I can only confirm at this stage that we remain firmly attached to the values and principles expressed in our reform proposals concerning the role and consultation of stakeholders in the CFP.

Let me assure you that we strongly value the advice that LDRAC is providing in our preparations for international meetings and that we are fully committed to continue and enhance the good practice followed up to now.

Yours sincerely,



Lowri EVANS

Encl: 1

Cc:

Ms. Tankink, Veits, Head, Kordecka, Andre, Perez-Maiz
Mr. Depypere, Penas, Bianchi, Alexandrou, Cesari, Fachada,
Lamplmair, Duarte, Daniel, Papaconstantinou