



The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/ (2016)

Mr Ivan Lopez
LDAC Chairman
C/ Doctor Fleming 7,
2º derecha
28036 Madrid
SPAIN

Subject: LDAC recommendations for the EU position on FAO COFI 2016

Your ref: R-05-16/WG5

Dear Mr Lopez,

First of all I would like to thank you for the extensive recommendations provided by the LDAC for the statements of the EU and its Member States at the 32nd Session of the FAO-COFI (COFI 32) and for your active participation in the technical meeting my services had organised on 7 June 2016.

I am happy to report that COFI 32 went well for the EU, with securing wide endorsement for our positions among Members, as well as side events prominently scheduled early in the week on two of our external policy cornerstones: the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and the IUU Regulation. Furthermore the EU's participation in the high-level event on the entry into force of the PSMA has further signalled our commitment to our interlocutors around the world that we are stepping up efforts to close the net over IUU fishing perpetrators, wherever they may be based.

Your recommendations were very welcome in the preparation of the common positions with our Member States and to further emphasize certain aspects on fisheries and aquaculture governance. While we regret that no agreement could be struck on the guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes, consultations are to resume on this soon. We further welcome progress made at COFI on sustainable small-scale fisheries, tackling lost and abandoned fishing gear and the further support to the ongoing fight against IUU fishing, including through the Global Record. We were also pleased to see that the Committee broadly highlighted the role of RFMOs in the management of common fisheries resources, including that they should be subject to regular and transparent performance reviews.

Thank you again for your constructive input and support. If you have any question on this reply, you can contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,



João AGUIAR MACHADO