



Ref.:135 /REL

Rome, 12 May 2014

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEDAC COMMITTEE MEETING

On 12th November 2013 at 9.45 the MEDAC Executive Committee meeting was held at the “Palazzo della Cooperazione” in Rome, to discuss the following:

### Agenda

1. Adoption of the report of Executive Committee meeting held in Malta (23 May 2013).
2. Presentation of the 2013 financial statement - Information; final report of activities 2013 - Approval.
3. Presentation of the budget proposal and work programme for 2014 – Approval.
4. Current situation including any updates and amendments on the issues related to the Statute, the Internal Regulation and the Working Group Procedures.
5. Presentation of the summary and any contributions received in relation to:
  - a. the meeting on the Mediterranean Regulation and on the Reform to the CFP with the Mediterranean Member States (13th November) and possibly with the European Parliament (16<sup>th</sup> December);
  - b. the GFCM Symposium on small scale fisheries (27 November);
6. Approval procedure for the final working document of WG4 and discussion on its potential presentation to the GFCM Commission and SCESS.
7. Debate and observations on the following meetings held in recent months:
  - Meeting with the Commissioner Damanaki held in Brussels on 26th July;
  - Technical meeting with DG MARE and the stakeholders in view of the annual ICCAT session held on 18th October in Brussels (OCEANA);
  - INTER-RAC meeting held on 24th October in Brussels (President);
  - Seminar on the reform to the CFP held on 25<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels (President).
8. The updated list of the RAC MED members, the status of membership fee payments for 2013 and the membership requests that have been received (HOK e Archipelagos) and the possible exclusion of members who have not paid their quotas.
9. Any other matters.



At the time the meeting began the following participants were present:

Genaro Amigo Chouciño, Snezana Levstik, José Maria Gallart, Esteban Graupera, Iolanda Piedra, Sabrina Soffientini, Antoni Garau Coll, Isabella Verardi, Elisabetta Giannocari, Federica Barbera, Maria Papadopoulou, Mario Ferretti, Gian Ludovico Ceccaroni, Oscar Sagué Pla, Marc Planas, Elena Ghezzi, Paolo Pelusi, Giovanni Basciano, Erika Monnati, Rosa Caggiano, Sergio Schiavone, Antonio Pucillo, Eusebi Esgleas Pares, Giampaolo Buonfiglio and Laura Pisano. Furthermore, a representative of DG MARE, Evangelia Georgitsi, was present as well as the accountant Carlo Gandolfi.

The list of participants was signed by all present and is annexed to this report.

Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio was elected Chair of the meeting and the meeting secretary was Ms Rosa Caggiano.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, a particular welcome was reserved for the delegation from the Italian Ministry and the representative of Federconsumatori who participated in MEDAC activities for the first time.

### **Agenda Item I: Adoption of the Executive Committee meeting report (Malta 23 May 2013)**

The report was adopted by the members with no changes

### **Agenda Item II: Presentation of the 2013 financial statement - Information; final report of activities 2013 - Approval**

The Executive Secretary presented the economic and financial statement for 2013, stating that the MEDAC accounting consultant was available for any further explanations. She stated that the financial situation distributed to the participants was valid until 11<sup>th</sup> November, having received the last donor instalment and another membership fee in the last few days. The Executive Secretary went on to illustrate the differences between the entries specifying, however, that was not yet final, as it had not been possible to satisfy all claims for reimbursement of members for travel expenses, due to the insufficient availability of funds; she proceeded to answer requests for clarification by some members.

The Executive Secretary then illustrated the final report of activities, specifying that the document distributed to the participants was still to be integrated with the external meetings that would be attended before the end of the year.

### **Agenda Item III: Presentation of the budget proposal and work programme for 2014 – Approval.**

The Secretary submitted the proposed 2014 budget to the ExCom members, stating that it must be approved in order to be sent to the European Commission, together with other documents, including the work programme, which are necessary to apply for pre-financing.

She then illustrated the composition of planned expenditures within the economic and financial statement, pointing out that to meet the costs for the additional activities they had attempted to limit expenses for meals in order to make funds available for the participation of scientific experts and for MEDAC participation in external meetings. With regard to income, the following changes were proposed: the membership fee should remain the same, however the contribution of the Member States should increase from 3150 to 4000 Euros. The Meeting



was further informed that the donor contributions would be reduced from 7000 € to 5500 € compared with the previous year.

The IFSUA representative noted that in the details of the WG meetings, no reimbursement was specified for a scientific expert in WG4. The Executive Secretary recalled that a lump sum was set aside in this case, because it is not certain that all scientific experts expected would actually participate, the allocation to one WG rather than another does not represent a constraint.

The representative of IVEAEMPA asked whether it was possible to compare the financial statement of the previous year with the proposed 2014 budget in order to fully comprehend the differences. The Executive Secretary stated that, as soon as the economic and financial statement for 2013 had been closed it would be possible to make a comparison to be presented at the next ExCom meeting. The economic and financial budget for 2014 was adopted unanimously by the Meeting participants.

Before giving the floor to the Executive Secretary to submit the work programme for the year 2014, The Chair stated that this work program had been discussed and approved at a meeting with DG MARE on 25<sup>th</sup> October, with some changes to the calendar of WG meetings. The EC requested that the work programme should put greater emphasis on the landings obligations, the multiannual management plans and regionalization. The Chair brought the Meeting's attention to the fact that certain meetings have been merged due to the economic restrictions that are increasingly stringent, as more activities are requested however the reform does not provide a greater contribution in terms of resources to the Advisory Councils.

The Executive Secretary presented the work programme, pointing out that the section on WG4 recreational fisheries is blank because the goals set for the group had been achieved with the adoption of the final document of the work carried out by this WG (planned within the Agenda of this ExCom meeting). The coordinator and the participants of this WG present at the Meeting were requested to inform the ExCom on the issues that they plan to deal with. Lastly the Executive Secretary illustrated a table presenting a summary of the MEDAC activities MED which will begin in March rather than in February due to uncertainty over the date of disbursement of the EC contribution.

The PASEGES representative asked for the creation of a permanent Working Group on small scale coastal fisheries.

The IVEAEMPA representative offered the meeting room of the association's headquarters in Barcelona free of charge for the working group meetings planned for March. The Executive Secretary thanked her for this offer and, as there were no further interventions on this matter, she announced that the next working groups would be organized at the IVEAEMPA offices.

The IFSUA representative proposed that WG4 could be transformed into a group on coastal fisheries, including both recreational and artisanal fisheries.

The Chair underlined once more that available resources should be directed to priority dossiers. Regarding the IFSUA proposal, he reiterated that the problems concerning commercial fisheries are very different from those of related to recreational fisheries, and although it might be possible to organise moments within the same group in which both issues are discussed, it would not be appropriate to create a permanent working group in which the two topics are mixed. He also emphasized the fact that most of the work to be carried out must be dealt with online, because it would not be possible to organize additional meetings to those already planned with the funds currently available. The Chair stressed that the working groups would have to work remotely to produce the documents that would then be approved by written procedure. Finally, he recalled that with the ongoing CFP



reform, it would be necessary to respond to the expectations expressed by the EC on the issues that are brought to the attention of the Advisory Councils.

The coordinator of WG4, Mr Graupera, stated his opinion that the WG should be maintained and proposed that this decision be postponed until the next ExCom in order to submit a concrete proposal by the organizations concerned.

The Chair pointed out that this discussion could not be postponed until the next ExCom meeting, as the work programme had to be approved during this meeting in order to send it to the EC and thus receive funds to finance the following year. Without the consent of the ExCom applications for pre-financing cannot be submitted to the EC. He also recalled that as of next year there will be a bridge period, since the EMFF has not yet been adopted and will not enter into force before the second half of 2014; MEDAC will have to address this bridging period as it is the only AC that has a calendar of activities which coincides with the calendar year.

The IFSUA representative proposed that the WG4 meeting be brought forward with those planned for March so as to present some proposals to the next ExCom meeting.

The Chair explained that the issues to be dealt with in the WG meetings in March are high priority and the EC wants to see them addressed as soon as possible. He reiterated that, at present, there is not a WG on artisanal fisheries, however this issue will have to be studied in greater detail as the definition and management of small-scale fisheries is one of the issues within the reform and it is necessary to analyze the various measures focusing on small-scale coastal fisheries. The GFCM will hold a specific workshop in Malta on this matter, and the Meeting was also reminded that there is a letter signed by Mrs Damanaki which encourages the participation of small - scale fisheries. The Chair proposed that the established WG on recreational fisheries could create an online forum with the small-scale fisheries in order to identify points of contact/conflict, to highlight the problem of competition for areas and resources, the problem of calendars concerning temporary fisheries closure periods, etc. .

The EAA representative proposed that WG4 should concentrated on the implementation of the FAO guidelines for responsible fisheries, paying particular attention to coastal areas, in order to examine the interactions with the small-scale fisheries. The Chair asks the EAA to prepare a text listing the objectives that this WG intends to realise this year, in order to propose this document to the Meeting participants. The work programme was approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item IV: Current situation including any updates and amendments on the issues related to the Statute, the Internal Regulation and the Working Group Procedures.**

The Chair informed the Meeting that work had already been carried out on amendments to the Statute and the Internal Regulation. However the most pressing issue is that within the ongoing reform of the CFP, in particular, concerning the change in the ratio between the two components (the fisheries sector, other areas of interest) which will change to 60-40 % from 2/3 and 1/3. This proportion would need to be observed both in the ExCom and the General Assembly. The Chair recalled that the RAC MED had already pointed to DG MARE that maintaining this composition in the GA would necessarily mean denying access to certain organizations. Moreover, as it is not yet known how many ExCom members there will be in the future, (not 24 any longer), this change could bring about financial problems for RAC MED which would reduce funding for the organization of WG meetings. The Chair proposed the suspension of this WG pending the adoption of the final text of the reform of the CFP and the EC delegated acts that will define the rules for the establishment and operation of the new (R)ACs.



**Agenda Item V: Presentation of the summary and any contributions received in relation to:**

- a. **the meeting on the Mediterranean Regulation and on the Reform to the CFP with the Mediterranean Member States (13th November) and possibly with the European Parliament (16<sup>th</sup> December);**
- b. **the GFCM Symposium on small scale fisheries (27 November);**

The Chair announced that the Secretariat had only recently received the final Agenda of the meeting to be held the following day on the Mediterranean Regulation and on some aspects of the CFP reform: the landings obligation and regionalization. MEDAC was invited to speak mainly on these two issues. The Chair informed the participants that during the meeting he would refer to the contributions received on the Mediterranean Regulation (FNCP, FBCP and the Spanish federations Cofradías of Murcia and Valencia). The Chair presented the intervention that he intended to make the following day. Where the landings obligation is concerned, the proposal would be that this issue should be addressed by MEDAC in the various Member States, identifying a working group in each and a focal point among its members, in order to deal with a first phase of preliminary investigation, and then to carry out feasibility studies in the more important and representative districts for fisheries in each, with reference to the fisheries systems involved. On the matter of regionalization, the Chair illustrated the part of the proposed regulation on the CFP reform and the underlying mechanisms.

Regarding the European Parliament Hearing of 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Chair informed the Meeting that he would participate in his role as President of ACI-Pesca, however the opportunity would also be taken to express the positions of MEDAC. In this regard, he asked those present to send in any contributions by the end of November in order to prepare a draft joint intervention, which would be distributed to the MEDAC members.

On the matter of the GFCM Symposium, the Secretariat had received contributions on small-scale fisheries from Greece, France, FBCP, Italy, Malta and Slovenia. The Chair recalled that it would be necessary to submit a written statement describing the situation of small-scale fisheries in the member states, this document should also describe the problems concerning the definition of small-scale fisheries.

**Agenda Item VI: Approval procedure for the final working document of WG4 and discussion on its potential presentation to the GFCM Commission and SCESS.**

The Chair passed the floor to the coordinator of the WG on recreational fisheries, Esteban Graupera, who presented the final document of the WG on Recreational Fisheries, which proposed a common, shared legal framework as, at present, basic rules on recreational fishing are non-existent. The coordinator asked the members of the ExCom to approve this proposal. There were requests to intervene and no clarification was required, the document was therefore approved unanimously and can therefore be presented to the GFCM SCESS. The coordinator thanked both the Secretariat, the EAA and the WWF for the effective cooperation. Lastly the Secretariat was requested to revise the text from a linguistic point of view and then distribute it to the EC and the GFCM.

**Agenda Item VII: Debate and observations on the following meetings held in recent months:**



- **Meeting with the Commissioner Damanaki held in Brussels on 26th July;**
- **Technical meeting with DG MARE and the stakeholders in view of the annual ICCAT session held on 18th October in Brussels (OCEANA);**
- **INTER-RAC meeting held on 24th October in Brussels (President);**

**Seminar on the reform to the CFP held on 25<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels (President)**

The Chair reminded the Meeting that the Secretariat had already distributed a summary of the meeting with Mrs Damanaki, held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, and reiterated the Commissioner's repeated request that within MEDAC an "open doors" policy should be applied, MEDAC was urged to resolve disagreements with the French fisheries organizations. The Commissioner proposed lowering the annual fee in order to widen participation. On this matter, it was pointed out that given current financial resources, this would not be applicable. The Secretary had also proposed the possibility of partial shares, paying only the contribution relative to of the meeting in which there is effective participation, however this option would also reduce the current budget excessively. The proposal to increase the fees for each Member State starting next year was viewed positively by Mrs Damanaki who took on the task of writing to the MS to invite them to commit themselves further to the RAC. The Chair invited the Meeting to formulate possible proposals to lower the Membership fees.

The Chair thanked OCEANA for the collaboration provided in occasion of the technical meeting with DG MARE and stakeholders in view of the annual ICCAT meeting, held on 12<sup>th</sup> October. OCEANA spoke on behalf of MEDAC and presented the results of the group working held in Paris, in the place of the FNCP representative who could not attend due to unexpected family commitments.

The Chair concluded this Agenda item with the report of the Inter-RAC meeting that was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels. The Meeting was informed on the most significant change that will concern the proportion of the composition of the RAC entities (from 2/3 to 60% and from 1/3 to 40% in both the ExCom and GA). The EC further informed MEDAC on Council Decision n.585/2004, which established that the Advisory Councils will remain in force until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, and the operations of the future Advisory Councils will be formulated in an EC delegated act.

On the matter of the CFP Seminar, the Chair informed the Meeting that the EC had invited the Member States to prepare and submit management plans on discards by June, at least where small pelagics are concerned, with the collaboration of the Advisory Councils. In addition, the EC announced, that from now on in the framework of regionalization, the Advisory Councils will have a new role and that MS should take advantage of this by consulting with them in the preparation of such initiatives.

The Chair announced that both the INTER-RAC report and that of the seminar on the CFP were being translated and would shortly be sent out by the Secretariat.

**Agenda Item VIII: The updated list of the RAC MED members, the status of membership fee payments for 2013 and the membership requests that have been received (HOK e Archipelagos) and the possible exclusion of members who have not paid their quotas.**

Where the exclusion of insolvent members is concerned, the Chair informed the Meeting that to date he had been personally responsible for the breach of the rule establishing that members would be excluded if they had



not complied with fee payment, now due by the deadline of 31 March, (this decision is a result of the current economic situation).

The Executive Secretary informed the participants on the associations that had not paid: CRPMEM PACA, IPI, ANAPI PESCA. APCCR communicated its inability to pay the fee; OPGG sent a letter asking to withdraw membership. The other three associations indicated that they will make payment in the next few days. While where APCCR and OPGG are concerned, the members approved their exclusion.

With regard to the request for new membership, the Secretariat received a request from a Croatian association, HOK, and a Greek one, Archipelagos. The Chair informed the Meeting that the Secretariat had not received due recognition of the level of representation of these associations from the competent MS, and proposed to proceed with a provisional resolution: acceptance of these applications for membership provided that the letters confirming their representation are received from their respective ministries. All members approved this proposal unanimously.

The FIPSAS representative announced that CIPS had determined by means of a resolution that the FIPS-M representative would become a representative of CIPS from 2014, since this confederation represents all recreational fisheries and not just the competitive sector.

The Chair and all ExCom members took note.

#### **Agenda Item IX: any other matters.**

The Chair took this opportunity to raise the issue of the resignation of Ms Snezana Levstik in favour of the French vice-presidency. The Chair thanked Snezana Levstik and recalled that the position of vice Chair had only temporarily been accepted, while the misunderstanding with the French organizations was clarified. The problems with the French colleagues were resolved during the Paris WG meeting and the President of CNPMEM, Mr Romiti expressed his readiness to be part of the vice-presidency of MEDAC. The Chair proposed a vote on this proposed replacement, which would expire with the Presidency in 2017, the result of the voted would be made official during the next GA. All members of ExCom agreed with the procedure proposed by the Chair and thus appointed Romiti as vice-Chair unanimously, in place of Snezana Levstik.

The Chair asked the representative of EAA to present the objectives that the WG on recreational fisheries had established for the coming year. The EAA representative took the floor and stated that the WG on recreational fisheries would further discuss the implementation of the recently adopted document; moreover the application of the FAO technical guidelines for recreational fisheries will be addressed, these guidelines are transversal but deal mainly with the coastal area. Lastly the Meeting was informed that the WG hoped to analyse the possible application of these guidelines in the Mediterranean in order to facilitate the co-existence and integration between recreational and artisanal fisheries. The proposed addition to the work programme was adopted by those present.

As a last point, the Executive Secretary announced that, from 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013, the new headquarters of MEDAC would be in Via Nazionale 243, Rome, not far from the current offices. Therefore the members of MEDAC were requested use this new address for all communications.



No further matters were put forward for discussion and the meeting concluded at 15.46.

\*\*\*\*\*

