

**TO THE ATTENTION OF MS MARIA DAMANAKI, COMMISSIONER FOR FISHERIES
AND MARITIME AFFAIRS**

Meeting on 7 and 8 June 2010 at Marbella (SP), the Mediterranean RAC¹

whereas:

- protests are under way in many fishing ports of Mediterranean Member States, following the coming into force of the measures of Council Regulation 1967/2006, which had been the subject of derogations until 31 May 2010,
- there is a danger of serious socio-economic consequences resulting from the loss of profitability deriving from said measures, and a risk of unemployment for many workers in the sector,

requests of the European Commission:

that Council Regulation No 1967/2006 be the subject of urgent revision, accelerating the procedures provided for in article 9.3.3 of said regulation, so as to assess, in the light of the latest scientific opinions, the technical and scientific justification and validity of the most problematic measures, and in particular:

- the **maximum twine thickness** of 3mm which, in the opinion of the sector, should be increased to 5 mm. All RAC members are unanimous on this item and the RAC MED calls for an urgent solution;
- **the minimum mesh size of the cod end;**
- **the minimum distance from the coast;**
- **minimum sizes;**
- **the technical specifications and the features of the gears.**

The RAC believes that it is urgent to proceed with an assessment – never undertaken (contrary to Community norms) upstream of the approval of the Regulation – of the socio-economic aspects of the implementation of the Regulation, so as to identify, as fast as possible, the most appropriate proposals for amendments which will make it genuinely possible to pursue the criteria of biological, social and economic sustainability, and avoid disseminating a lack of confidence towards the Community institutions among the fishing community, as well as resignation to what will be a situation of widespread illegality.

¹ With reserves by the Greek organisation PASAGES and abstention of the WWF and the recreational/sports fishing organisations, with the exception of the item on maximum twine thickness.