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Rome, 12 November, 2013

RAC MED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

On 23rd May 2013 at 10:30, in the meeting room of the University of Malta, Valletta Campus, the Executive Committee meeting was held to discuss the following Agenda:

1. Adoption of the Executive Committee report Rome, 20 March 2013.
2. Discussion and approval of any changes to be brought to the Statute, the Internal Regulation and the procedural rules of the Working Groups.
3. Presentation of the two projects (SOCIOEC and Myfish) by the HCMR researcher Voula Paraskevi Karachle.
4. The updated list of the RAC MED members, the status of membership fee payments for 2013 and the membership requests that have been received.
5. Updates to the EC proposal for a GFCM recommendation on a multi-year management plan for small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic.
6. Developments in the three-way discussions being held on the CFP reform.
7. Any other matters.

At the time the meeting began the following participants were present: Giampaolo Buonfiglio, Mario Ferretti, Giovanni Basciano, Maria José Cornax, Juan Parera Molero, Stephen Brincat, Francis Caruana, Paul Piscopo, Oscar Sagué Pla, Sergio Schiavone, Esgleas Eusebi Pares, Andreina Fenech Farrugia, Marco Rinaldi, Rosa Caggiano, Paraskevi Karachle, Genaro Amigo Chouchiño, Giuseppe Demicoli, Marina Illuminati, Susana Sainz-Trapaga.

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. He then passed the floor to the Hon. Roderick Galdes MP, Maltese State Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries, who welcomed the meeting participants on behalf of the



Maltese Government and congratulated RACMED on having prepared a document on the applicative difficulties in the Mediterranean of the requirement to land all fisheries products. Moreover, he urged all the participants to continue working constructively and actively to protect the Mediterranean Sea and its resources. Mr Buonfiglio thanked him for his words of encouragement and added his hope that the Member States and the European Commission would take the opinions expressed by RACMED into due consideration.

Before requesting approval of the Agenda, the Executive Secretary suggested the addition of a further agenda item to discuss the consultation on pelagic drift nets initiated by the EC. The OCEANA representative asked to take the floor and spoke of the possible RACMED contribution to the consultation. Agenda item 8 was therefore dealt with first.

Agenda item VIII: EC consultation on drift net fisheries

The Secretary informed the Meeting that the only contribution received was the one from OCEANA, all members had already been requested to provide their contributions in order to attempt to reach a joint position, the last date being 28th June 2013. The OCEANA representative informed the Meeting that she is participating in three consultations and would be interested in receiving an opinion on the consultation dedicated to state aid, as this matter will be dealt with this coming Autumn.

The Chair informed the Meeting that the Italian Alliance of Fishery Cooperatives (ACI PESCA), which includes AGCI Agrital, Federcoopescas, Confcooperative and Lega Pesca, is preparing a single document that expresses the opposition of most Italian organizations to a ban on fishing gear such as small drift nets without taking into account the socio-economic impact of this ban; the organizations in question are in favour of scaling back use of this fishing.

The GKTS representative informed the participants that his organization is against the use of all drift nets, including small-scale drift nets, this position is shared by the Maltese Ministry.

The representative of Federcoopescas took the floor to underline that it would be more appropriate first to clarify what is meant by small-scale drift nets (a definition by length or mesh size), the Italian associations are against the use of large mesh drift nets but in favour of those with small mesh such as the drift nets used in anchovy fisheries.

The OCEANA representative thanked Prof. Ferretti who is an expert on the matter of drift nets (called “ferrettare” in Italian) and stressed that if RACMED provides a contribution then the socio-economic impact must be taken into consideration.

Given the imminent date of the consultation, the Chair proposed that all the RACMED members should present a written contribution so as to prepare a document describing a shared position, where possible, to be written in English only. There were no votes against this proposal so the Secretariat was asked to proceed.

Agenda item I: Adoption of the Executive Committee report, Rome, 20th March 2013

The report was adopted with some amendments: IVEAMPA requested the insertion of the formation of an *ad hoc* Working Group to implement changes to the Statue and the Internal Regulation in force and, with the approval of the WWF, proposed that the report should specify that the 2012 accounts were adopted on a provisional basis. The



Secretary promised to transmit the auditor's certification to the ExCom members, underlining that there could be some amendments on the basis of EC decisions. The report was adopted with these changes.

The WWF representative asked the Secretariat to specify the level of RACMED involvement in the three pilot projects (MAREFRAME; DISCATCH; TEMPO). The Secretary reminded those present that during the previous ExCom meeting it had not been possible to describe the three projects in detail due to the time constraints, however she assured the meeting that there would be no additional expenses for RACMED and recalled that there are slides on the website that illustrate the projects.

The representative of IVEAEMPA enquired about the procedures for RACMED participation, if any, in these three projects, as it would be preferable in his opinion to inform RACMED members before accepting. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Chair had given his approval for participation when the projects were announced, because in all three cases there had not been enough time to inform all the members.

The Chair informed those present on the issues raised during the recent INTERRAC meeting in relation to operative issues and the involvement of the RACs in such projects, as the EC had not clarified some matters RACMED duly informed DG MARE and permission was received for RACMED to participate in the aforementioned projects.

Agenda item II: Discussion and approval of any changes to be brought to the Statute, the Internal Regulation and the procedural rules of the Working Groups.

The Chair recalled that the main aim of the ExCom meeting was to start outlining possible harmonized amendments to the Statute and the Internal Regulation including the procedures for Working Groups. As mentioned during the ExCom meeting on 20th March, it might be preferable to establish a group of legal experts with the requirement that at least one is Italian, in order to ensure that the Statute conforms to current Italian law and is compatible with EC legislation. The Chair proposed road map for the preparation of a text that is agreed by all ExCom members, to be presented to the General Assembly in 2014 so that it can subsequently be sent to the EC for final approval.

On the basis of the contributions received from CEPRR, OCEANA, IFSUA, EAA, CNPMEM, FIPSAS/ FIPS MER, KGZS, ETF and IVEAEMPA the meeting participants examined the proposed amendments to the Statute and the Internal Regulation that were received prior to the meeting, summarized by the Secretariat and sent to the ExCom members. After extensive discussion and further integrations and changes, a first draft of amendments to the Statute and the Internal Regulation was drawn up and is attached to this report.

Agenda item III: Presentation of the two projects (SOCIOEC and Myfish) by the HCMR researcher Voula Paraskevi Karachle

The Chair invited Voula Karachle to present these two projects with the support of slides. The aim of the presentation was to encourage RACMED participation in the SOCIOEC project meetings in particular, in order to promote interaction between the RACMED *ad hoc* working group on the socio-economic impact and the project partnership. Ms Karachle stressed that there would be a total of 3 meetings, one each year, and that the costs of the



missions would be covered by the project itself, she expressed the hope that RACMED would nominate at least two representatives to participate.

Agenda item IV: the updated list of the RAC MED members, the status of membership fee payments for 2013 and the membership requests that have been received

The Secretary informed the Meeting that there are 40 RACMED members and that the membership procedures for Federconsumatori had concluded, she therefore requested the members' acceptance for the addition of this new member.

No disagreement was expressed and the membership of Federconsumatori was thus approved. The right to hold the seat on the ExCom that is assigned to a consumers' association was confirmed.

Where the payment of membership fees is concerned, 11 members are not up to date and therefore, with the agreement of the Chairmanship, a deferral was conceded for 2013. If the missing quotas are not received, the Secretariat will need to inform the members on the possible changes to the adopted work plan.

Agenda item V: Updates to the EC proposal for a GFCM recommendation on a multi-year management plan for small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic.

The Chair informed the meeting on the results of the annual GFCM session that was recently held in Split; in representation of RACMED, the meeting was attended by the vice Chair Snezana Levstik, who could not attend this ExCom meeting for personal reasons. The proposed EC recommendation on the multi-annual management plan for small pelagic fisheries in the north Adriatic, already sent by RACMED, was adopted.

The WWF representative underlined that the first GFCM annual management plan had been adopted and she expressed the opinion that RACMED gave an important contribution during the WG3, that was set up *ad hoc* before the GFCM annual session.

Agenda item VI: Developments in the three-way discussions being held on the CFP reform.

The Chair updated the participants on the work in progress in the framework of the three-way discussions on the CFP reform. He underlined that, on the basis of the recent proposals approved by the EU Council of Ministers, the composition of the RAC Executive Committees could be modified from the current division in 2/3 and 1/3 to 60% and 40% respectively. As a consequence, in amending the Statute this new scenario must be taken into consideration.

Agenda item VI: any other matters.

The representative of FNCCP asked the Chair to make an effort to communicate and negotiate with the French associations following the differences of opinion that came to light in the course of the recent Chairmanship



elections held on 20th March 2013. The Chair assured the Meeting that he is more than willing to begin discussions again on this matter and find common ground so as to overcome the difficulties.

The WWF representative took the floor and asked for clarification on the payment of the WG coordinators for the year 2012. The Secretary explained that, during the ExCom meeting of 20th March, this contribution was proposed on the basis of the amount available for 2012 and that it would be a one-off payment, not necessarily to be conformed in the future. The WWF representative informed the meeting that her association would donate this amount to RACMED.

No other matters were put forward for discussion, so the Chair thanked the participants and the interpreters and closed the meeting at 17.00.

