Letter from: European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries,

The Director-General, Lowri Evans

To: Regional Advisory Committee for the Mediterranean, Attn. Mr Mourad Kahoul

Date: 27 May 2011

Subject: The opinion of RAC Mediterranean on shared fisheries

Ref.: Our letter Ref. Ares(2011)119677 of 03.02.2011 and your e-mail of 12.05.2011

Dear Mr Kahoul,

Thank you for sending us the list of shared stocks as drawn up by RAC Med at the Working Group meeting in Rome on 19 April 2011.

The identification of the professions and fisheries, management of which is shared, either within the EU or with third countries, has been identified by the Commission as a priority topic, on which the contribution of the RAC Mediterranean is deemed valuable. However, the list of shared stocks submitted by the RAC, which is based on the one drawn up in 2006 by the GFCM (SAC) Scientific Committee, only very partially meets the Commission’s expectations. More specifically, only two new stocks (*Merlangus merlangus* and *Lepidopus caudatus*) have been added to the SAC’s list. Additionally the RAC attributes only primary or secondary priority to the various stocks on the list, without supplying any information on the criteria used to this end.

The Commission would like to see the RAC go into greater detail on the technical and economic aspects of the various shared fisheries, based on the experience of professionals operating in the Mediterranean, with the identification of those fisheries (and not stocks), the management of which needs to be improved as a matter of priority. This advice would be very valuable for drawing up long-term management plans, both in the context of the EU and that of relations with the GFCM.

I would therefore be grateful to receive from you, as soon as possible, a more documented contribution, responding to what we had asked for in our letter of 3 February 2011. The Commission departments are ready to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Lowri Evans