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Rome, 27th March 2012

OPINION OF THE RAC MED ON THE REFORM OF THE COMMON MARKET ORGANIZATION (CMO)

The Executive Committee, met in Rome on 27th March 2012, adopted the opinion proposed by the Working Group 1 (WG1), held in Rome on 28th February, to discuss *inter alia* the reform of the CMO, as well as the new European fund for fisheries.

Where the reform of the CMO is concerned, the RAC MED expressed its appreciation of the fact that the EC is making every effort to simplify the legal aspects as well as to implement a single storage mechanism. It was stressed, however, that this process of simplification should also include the standardization of the EC regulations in force in relation to the marketing of fisheries products (EC Reg. 1224/09, EU Reg.404/11, EU Reg. 1169/11, and COM416/2011) so as to avoid complicating the current framework instead of simplifying it.

The RAC MED underlined its agreement with the preservation of "minimum sizes" in the marketing of fishery products (Chapter III *Marketing Standards*, art. 39 *Establishment of marketing standards*, paragraph 2(a)) this was described by the WG as an important element which will embrace all products traded in the EU. All measures that aim to simplify existing procedures relative to the marketing of fisheries products are welcomed, for example the proposal to establish a five-year transitory mechanism to pass over to the new system and the use of a label to confer added value to fresh products that are consumed near the landing site.

During the meeting the RAC MED brought forward the following proposed changes:

- The elimination of annex II of the basic regulation (article 35) which contains the list of species that can receive financial support for storage, because this list is not exhaustive and therefore penalizes Producers' Organizations which deal with species that are not in this annex.
- The integration of measures for lagoon fisheries species in articles 5 and 43 of the basic regulation so that these species can be included in the CMO;

A final point: the requirement to indicate the capture date on the label, should there be a system in place able to check this date on landing, could cause difficulties in some Mediterranean areas where vessels are at sea longer than 24 hours to save fuel and to spend longer ashore.

N.B.: this Opinion was fully supported by all the participants in the RAC MED except WWF. WWF does not agree with receiving financial support for storage as we do not think that everything caught should be landed.

