

MINUTES OF THE MED RAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On 22 February at 10:00, in the offices of the Fair of Rimini, in the Diotallevi meeting room, the Executive Committee held a meeting to discuss and deliberate on the following:

Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the working group on the Regulation on Controls (Rome, 30 November) and the Executive Committee (Rome, 1 December);
2. Report on the meeting held in Brussels on 1 February between MED RAC and the European Commission;
3. Updated list of MED RAC members, situation of 2010 member quota and new member candidates (ref. Letter sent to DG Mare);
4. Participation in international meetings of the Presidency (GFCM, 9-14 May, Rome; ICCAT, 9-19 November, Madrid). Agreement of members.

Attendance:

Participant attendance can also be verified by the signatures of all participants on meeting papers. The attendance sheets will be filed with the minutes.

Chairman: Mr Mourad Kahoul

Executive Secretary: Ms Rosa Caggiano

Chairman Kahoul opened the proceedings and welcomed the participants and moved on to the approval of the Agenda.

Mr Buonfiglio announced he would like to put forward the presentation of a draft opinion on the EC Regulation on Controls and its Regulation application resulting from the working group discussions held in Rome on 30 November, in consideration of the fact that by May of this year, the EC will approve the present Regulation in effect, and that, therefore, there would not be enough time to plan a new working group on this issue. There being no objections, it was decided to approve the opinion once the agenda items had been dealt with.

Item I: approval of the minutes of the working group on the Regulation on Controls (Rome, 30

November) and the Executive Committee (Rome, 1 December):

Concerning the working group minutes on the Regulation on Controls, Ms Caggiano mentioned that the Secretariat had received written comments on some sections regarding the stakeholders which will automatically be taken into consideration, being small modifications.

Ms Levstik declared that she hoped that the management plans for each country would be attached to the MED RAC website. Mr Buontoukos stated that he wished to remove from the minutes the reference to the *Cicladi* project. There being no other important modifications, the minutes of the Regulation on Controls working group and the Executive Committee of 1 December were approved.

Item II: Report on meeting held in Brussels on 1 February between MED RAC and the European Commission:

Mr. Buonfiglio summarized what had happened in the meeting with the EC on 1 February in Brussels, where the 2011 budget and work program were discussed. Specifically, the EC invited MED RAC to prepare a more detailed work program, fully explaining its objectives and priorities. The EC presented its priorities concerning different issues, such as the state of the swordfish stocks in view of the annual work of ICCAT; the drawing up of eventual management plans for shared stocks, also with other countries, and tackling the relevant problems for the different countries (Greece/Turkey, Sicily/North Africa, Spain/Morocco, Slovenia and Italy/Croatia and Albania), and the situation of the Mediterranean Regulation application.

Item III: Updated list of MED RAC members, situation of 2010 member quota and new member candidates (ref. Letter sent to DG Mare):

Ms Caggiano communicated that the current number of MED RAC members is made up of 24 associations, with the approval of membership in the last Executive Committee of the organizations: Penelope Aktea, Big Game Italia and AMOP. Instead, legal reservations were raised on the request for membership by some associations, and there being no explicit reference to admission criteria and requisites for candidate organizations, except only that of sector representativeness and recognition by the Member States, the question was referred to the EC for clarification. In the answering letter from DG-MARE, sent to MED RAC, it was pointed out that, given there were no requisites listed to become a RAC member, in Council Decision n. 2004/585, it was hoped for a larger participation and exchange of opinions among the associations of the different European Member States.

Mr. Gil de Bernabè confirmed that for the extractive sector organizations that are in the group 2/3, they must not be restricted to only giving a positive opinion on the representation of the organizations, but also provide more detailed information on the activities and composition of the candidate organizations in order to guarantee that the criteria of representation is duly respected.

Mr. Ferrari added, reconfirming how important it is that the organs are as representative as possible in



order to give more force and be more effective to the work of the EU consultation body.

The Commission representative, Ms. Viallon, pointed out that before drawing up the letter, the EC had again consulted the Member States in order to gather information on the candidate organizations that had confirmed their positive opinion, except for the case of Archipelagos.

Mr. Gorodetska from the French government pointed out that, in the case of the France, the Ministry has expressed a judgement clearly taking into account both the role of MED RAC and the type of contribution it can bring to the organization.

With all comments presented, the Chair proposed to put to the vote the admission of the candidate organizations, and with the abstention only of FNCP and CRPMEM PACA, the organizations ANAPI Pesca, IVEAEMPA, ANACEME, APCCR, ETANG DE BERRE, FEDAS, OCEANA were admitted to MED RAC. MED RAC members are now 31.

The ANAPI Pesca delegate thanked the EXCOM for having confirmed the new memberships and communicated that the delegate of Penelope AKTEA had apologized for his/her absence by email, sent also to the Secretariat.

Item IV: Participation in international meetings of the Presidency (GFCM, 9-14 May, Rome; ICCAT, 9-19 November, Madrid). Agreement of members.

As the agreement of the EXCOM members is necessary for the participation of MED RAC in international meetings, it was established that in the next CAQ/GFCM meeting and in the annual GFCM session, to be held at FAO in Rome, the Secretariat will participate on behalf of MED RAC. Concerning the annual ICCAT session, it will be decided in the next EXCOM if the Presidency will participate or not.

The EC delegate spoke informing us that for external meetings, the MED RAC representative participating in these meetings will have to draw up a report, in as short a time possible, in order to receive travel reimbursement.

The Secretary explained the rules of procedure regarding the working groups.

Vice-president Buonfiglio reminded the meeting that the MED RAC work program forecasts, in March, the setting up of an *ad hoc* working group on swordfish, and the Secretary noted down the participants, and pointed out that only one meeting is forecasted, therefore the same working group will have to continue their work on-line, and their final opinion will be submitted to the EXCOM members.

On the CEPRR President's proposal, EXCOM decided to bring forward to March also the meeting of the working group on recreational fishing in order to be able to draw up an opinion to be presented at the next annual GFCM session, and, at the same time, set up a permanent working group on recreational fishing.

The EXCOM members unanimously established that the paper presented by Big Game Italia during the General Assembly will be the working basis for the above-mentioned group.

Item V: presentation of a draft opinion on the Regulation on Controls and its Regulation application



As announced at the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Buonfiglio read the draft opinion on the EC Regulation on Controls and its Regulation application. An unanimously approved opinion with the addition of a paragraph on recreational fishing proposed by CEPRR.

With no other business to deliberate on, and no other speakers asking for the floor, the meeting concluded at 13:15.



