

BRIEF REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thessaloniki, 20 September 2010

Present: see attached list.

Apologies received from: Ms Levstik, Mr Ribalta.

Session chair: Mr Kahoul (beginning of meeting) Mr Gonzalez Gil de Bernabé (end of meeting).

1. The Chairman opened the third meeting of the RAC Executive Committee, explaining that, owing to an important meeting the next day in Paris, he would have to leave the meeting at 16:00 and pass the chair to Mr Gil de Bernabé. The agenda was approved with the addition of an item concerning the approval of the draft opinion on the question of jurisdiction of waters that had been discussed that morning in the working group. The report of the second RAC meeting (8 June 2010, Marbella) would be approved at the next meeting on 1 December 2010 as translations of the report had not been sent to participants beforehand.
2. Returning to the draft opinion on the jurisdiction of waters in the Mediterranean, translated into several languages but not finalized in Greek, Mr Buonfiglio sought the approval of the Executive Committee. The Greek delegation had a reservation pending the submission of the finalized version in writing. The draft opinion will be sent to the WWF which was unable to attend the meeting.
3. Mr Buonfiglio then presented the situation concerning the procedures for the recruitment of the Secretary- General, which were proceeding well. As agreed in Marbella, the job advertisement had been revised, the criteria lightened, and the advertisement sent to all bodies that might know of interested candidates, to major European organizations, former candidates, etc. Some new applications had been received by the Secretariat. The closing date for receipt of applications was 30 September. The Secretariat will send out invitations to candidates for interviews during October. A final decision is expected in November and the Secretary-General ought to be available as of 1 January 2011. Meanwhile, as decided in Marbella, an assistant secretary whose CV was chosen had been recruited. This is Erika Monati, who was present at the meeting. Given that Ms Monati was unable to start work immediately in June, the Secretariat had called on Ms Illuminati to help the team in place. The Executive Committee members agreed to this initiative which supported the work of the RAC as well as expenses related to the advice of counsel Master Bonnefoie in the Greenpeace affair.
4. Regarding the organisations waiting to join, Mr Buonfiglio confirmed that the procedures agreed in Marbella had been applied, and that a letter had been sent to all applicant organizations with a

standard form attached. Letters had also been sent to the national authorities requesting confirmation the recognition of applicant organisations at national level.

5. The members then listened to the presentation on the status of the payment of dues in 2010. This was not overly negative in the sense that only two organizations still owed their dues. The first was the Federación Nacional de Cofradías, which had repeatedly attempted to make a transfer, but without success. The second organisation was the Federación Mediterránea de Pesca Responsable. For the latter, internal changes could explain the delay in payment. Ms Martinez took advantage of the presence of a representative of the Italian Ministry to communicate the deadline for the regularisation of financial contributions for 2009, given that the RAC has a financial commitment letter from the Ministry for that year.
6. For 2009, on the other hand, the situation was still quite obscure, and if a handful of organizations had regularized their late payments, many others had not yet responded to the last call and to the formal notice given in accordance with rules adopted at Marbella. The deadline for the regularisation being fixed at 30 September 2010, a final list of RAC members would be established at this time. The final information will be communicated at the Executive Committee on 1 December.
7. Under a spontaneously added 'any other business' item, Ms Béjar expressed to the Executive Committee members her astonishment at the fact that the European Parliament had held a hearing in early September on small-scale coastal fishing and no member of the RAC appeared to have been informed. In this respect Mr Gil de Bernabé informed delegates that the European Parliament's 'Fisheries' Committee had 'improvised' a late invitation to the RAC for one item on the agenda. It was a rather fast and informal invitation which had, moreover, aroused opposition from certain MEPs. However, as the RAC had adopted an opinion on the question of a possible differential scheme for coastal fishing, Mr Gil de Bernabé attended the meeting and was simply able to rapidly present said position at the hearing. Ms Viallon reminded delegates that when the Commission sent requests for designations for seminars, all RAC members should be informed.
8. There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting and thanked the Commission, interpreters and participants for their active collaboration in the work.

