

**Draft report of the Executive Committee meeting  
Marbella, 8 June 2010**

Present: See attached list.

Apologies received from: the CNPMEM representatives, Mr Oriol Ribalta, Ms Adriana Celestini (Penelope)

Session chairman: Mr Mourad Kahoul

Secretariat: Mr Buonfiglio, Ms Martinez

1. The Chair welcomed participants and started the session by giving the floor to Mr. Buonfiglio who presented the various changes in the agenda. These included adding the adopting of a statement on the assaults by Greenpeace against tuna seiners operating in the Mediterranean, and the adoption of the RAC's opinion on the technical measures. Also, under 'Any other business', examination of a written request submitted by the Penelope organization and of a letter from the Greek organization SAE (Hellenic Fishermen Confederation). Mr. Santolini (Big Game) also proposed reversing items 3 and 4.
2. The agenda having been adopted, Mr. Buonfiglio proceeded to read the draft opinion on the technical measures. There followed a final exchange of views, after which the document was finalized and adopted. It will therefore be sent to the Commission, widely circulated and posted on the website in several languages.
3. Executive Committee members then expressed their support for the declaration against the acts of Greenpeace against tuna seiners in the Mediterranean. The text was formally approved. It will therefore be translated and sent to the press.
4. Members of the Committee dealt with pending membership applications. Ms. Martinez reminded those present that certain membership applications dated from last year, and that IVEA EMPA and Big Game Italia had already provided the letter from their Ministry certifying that these organizations are nationally recognized. She then asked the French administration to provide information about the 'Pêcheurs de l'Etang de Berre'. Mr. Santolini (Big Game Italia) insisted vigorously that his organization is indeed recognized by his administration and that the organization had paid dues to the RAC for two years. He hoped that the new accession procedures would be applied to future applications for membership and not to those sent in last year. Mr. Gil de Bernabé regretted that this exception could be made because at the General Assembly in Rome in 2009, he had already expressed reservations about certain candidacies. He wanted to maintain the reservation made at the time and to obtain additional information. Ms.

Martinez informed those present that the information received from each candidate organization was highly disparate (ranging from a simple letter to a whole box of documents). Thus, at the next Executive Committee meeting which could take place in September, members will examine more easily consistent information modelled on the standard form to be sent to organizations applying under the new rules of procedure. Mr. Buonfiglio reminded members that other RACs had also encountered problems in managing new memberships and that to systematize the procedures they should accept these new approaches aimed at increasing transparency in the functioning of the RAC.

5. The Committee then addressed the membership applications of the "Asociación Nacional de Cerco del Mediterráneo" (ESP), AMOP (FR), ANAPI PESCA (IT) and UNICOOP ITALIA (IT). For these associations, the procedures adopted at the general assembly the day before would be applied. A participant briefly presented AMOP which comprises five producer organisations and 90% of the French Mediterranean trawler fleet. He confirmed the desire to join the RAC as soon as possible and stated that the membership dues would be paid after approval of the membership application.
6. The President then addressed the question of the list of Executive Committee members. In this context, Ms. Martinez said that the list would be completed when the new memberships had been confirmed and once it was clear which organisations had paid their dues correctly (deadline: 30 September). In the first third, Malta and Cyprus have not given any more news, but the seats needed to be reserved for them notwithstanding. In the last third, Seas at Risk / Legambiente have not given any sign of life either. Moreover, not all organizations had designated alternate members. The list therefore remains open to change at the present stage.
7. Regarding the agenda item on the permanent staffing of the secretariat, Mr. Buonfiglio said that in 2009 the RAC had been operating under a derogation system, and hoped that the Commission would continue to be lenient, given the transitional situation in 2010 and the fact that there was not yet a consensus on the recruitment of the Secretary General. Meanwhile, the RAC has been operating with external collaborators (Ms. Martinez, coordinator) and a voluntary interim Secretary General (Buonfiglio). As regards the solution proposed the day before of working with three collaborators (candidates) for the post of assistant, the Commission stressed that for services in excess of € 5,000, it was necessary to consult the market to comply with the Financial Regulation. To avoid irregularities, it was therefore necessary to recruit the assistant. Given the profiles of the three candidates mentioned the day before, and presented in detail in the meeting, the Executive Committee selected the CV of Erika Monnati, based in Rome. M. Garat advised that the CV of Isabella Marinuci be taken into account for the post of Secretary General, even if she does not know the fishing industry. Mr. Gil de Bernabé says that it was important to respect the candidates who had presented themselves for this position and had quality CVs, and that they



should be given an opportunity in the next call for applications, insisting that there be no veto on candidates.

8. Ms. Martinez presented the website designed after comparison with the sites of other existing RACs. All pages are editable and one can add as many as necessary. The site will be easy to update. She asked for additional photos of fishing gear used in the different regions to illustrate the site, which is in three languages (EN, FR, IT). Members had expressed a wish to see a map of the Mediterranean. This has been inserted. The list of members and their contact information will be adjusted based on changes over time. The site already contains all the working papers of previous meetings in chronological order, with the list of participants in pdf. It also includes press releases. The opinions adopted during these two days would be posted as soon as possible. Under the 'useful documents' can already be found the Mediterranean Regulation and the Green Paper. It might perhaps be interesting to add scientific studies/reports produced by researchers in the Mediterranean and which could be of interest to all players in the Mediterranean. These studies are generally poorly disseminated. This will enable people to better know the status of resources among our neighbours. 'Useful links' include the the addresses of the institutions, the FAO, ICCAT, GFCM, CITES, other RACs and other international organizations of interest.
9. The President then addressed the question of the 2010 programme. With regard to the themes to be addressed at the various meetings which have been planned, Mr. Buonfiglio proposed that of jurisdiction of waters. The fact is that there exist unilateral declarations extending the waters of certain States. There are countries that want to expand protected areas (median line, for example, Croatia). (?) Another working group could focus on the management plans. On 22 June, the RAC will examine the subject of collaboration with the scientific community, but in November a meeting could be dedicated to discussing the scientific data available on stocks in the Mediterranean. This would enable us to better clarify our positions. Another possible theme is the 'Control' Regulation. Indeed, the Regulation has been is in force since late 2009 and one ought to examine the situation. Ms. Martinez reminded those present that on June 22 it would be necessary to adopt an opinion on small-scale coastal fishing. Mr. Graupera, representing sports fishing, proposed that a meeting prepare recommendations for the harmonization of rules on recreational fishing as part of the reform of the CFP and for the special treatment of small-scale coastal fisheries.
10. Mrs. Clara Hénessart (CRPMEM PACA) presented the conclusions of the most recent GFCM plenary. The freezing of fishing capacity in the Mediterranean was adopted at the 33<sup>th</sup> plenary session. Following this recommendation, the GFCM had set up a workshop and developed a questionnaire. The EU had not yet sent in its data, but all States have a register of ships and are seeking to modernize their fleets without increasing capacity or the mortality rate for individual fish species. The workshop developed three options: status quo, developing an action plan for managing fishing capacity (including initiatives, timetables, etc.) and the possibility of integrating



the freezing of capacity at regional level. This plan would concern only ships over 15m. The idea of an action plan having been adopted for the management of fishing capacity (setting a maximum threshold beyond which the freeze will be applied), the GFCM had asked members to forward the list of vessels over 15m. A recommendation on the logbook had also been adopted for vessels over 15m, to come into effect on 01/01/2013. The GFCM had also adopted three ICCAT recommendations, including one on swordfish and another on the multi-year bluefin tuna recovery programme. The full presentation is available in several languages on the RAC Med site. The GFCM also requested that henceforth any proposed recommendation be sent to the secretariat at least 30 days before the session to avoid last minute documents. The next plenary meeting will be held in Rome in March 2011.

11. Under 'Any other business', Mr. Buonfiglio read the letter from Penelope/Aktea requesting that special attention be given to the condition and status of women in fishing undertakings in the Mediterranean. She would like the RAC to urge Member States to implement Directive 618 which provides for the recognition of the status of assisting spouse in the family undertaking. It was important to recognize the added value of work performed by women, particularly in the conservation of cultural heritage and social traditions. Fishing is not just a commercial activity. Fishing is one of the oldest human activities. We must preserve the environment. We must ensure the sustainability of stocks. But we must also ensure that of the fishing communities, as stipulated in the Green Paper.
12. Regarding the letter sent by Mr. Dimitris Kotzotorgios of the Hellenic Fishermen's Confederation, the representative did not participate in today's meeting. Ms. Papadopoulou was therefore asked to read it. The letter lamented the lack of information towards the Hellenic Fishermen's Confederation regarding the content of the management plan presented to the European Commission by the Greek authorities in charge and the lack of attention to the complaints raised in this respect. This was followed by comments by the Greek participants in the room qualifying the statements made in the letter.
13. The agenda being completed, the Chairman thanked participants, the Commission and the interpreters and invited participants to join the meal and visit to the auctions which were on the programme. The meeting ended.

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