



Ref.: 237/CE

Rome, 31 July 2013

Lowri Evans
Director General
DG MARE
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Director General,

The members of the RAC MED Chair's office recently met with the European Commissioner Maria Damanaki. Clarifications were requested on the future role and operations of the RACs in the light of the reformed CFP, the Commissioner informed us that there is still much to be decided on this matter.

The reply that you wrote to the letter (Ref. Ares(2013)2770525 - 29/07/2013) sent by the Pelagic RAC Chair, would suggest, however, that the designated subdivision of 60% of the seats attributed to the fisheries sector representatives and the remaining 40% to the other stakeholder groups affected by the CFP will be applied not only to the Executive Committee but also to the General Assembly. The proportion of 2/3 and 1/3 was also intended as such but was not applied to the General Assembly as far as we are aware.

Kindly consider that any fixed percentage, if applied to the General Assembly, will be in contrast to the open-door principle which the Commissioner plans to strengthen by eliminating the necessary acknowledgment by the relative Ministries of the level of representation of each association. In order to respect the proportion of 60/40 the RACs would be obliged to accept membership requests on the basis of this proportion only; otherwise each single new member would alter the percentages within the General Assembly system of lots is implemented for the two sectors, which in our opinion would complicate matters significantly.

If the 60/40 proportion is to be respected, taking this as the starting point, it would mean accepting membership requests only if the proportion matches the minimum requisite of 3 fisheries associations and 2 other stakeholder groups.



It would clearly be a different matter if the application of the 60/40 percentage refers to the Executive Committee members, unless this is further complicated by the division of the number of members in decimals, if the maximum is different from 20 or 30 members.

We sincerely hope that it will be possible to discuss this matter in greater depth in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

Giampaolo Buonfiglio
President



Copy to: Fabrizio Donatella, Ernesto Bianchi, Evangelia Georgitsi (by email)

