



## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **18<sup>th</sup> meeting of LDAC Working Group 4 *Bilateral Relations between EU and third countries***

Friday, 11 March 2016, 9.30 to 13.30 h.

**Hotel Renaissance. Rue du Parnasse 19. Brussels, 1050**

Chairman: Julio Morón  
Vice-chairman: Bèatrice Gorez

#### **1- Welcome and opening of the meeting**

The Chairman opens the meeting by thanking those present for attending.

#### **2- Approval of the minutes of the last meeting of WG4 - Brussels, 21 October 2015.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2015 are approved, with no additional comments.

#### **3- Approval of the agenda.**

The agenda for this meeting is adopted without any changes or additions.

The Chairman, Mr. Julio Moron, informs that the Commission has published infographics on the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (fold-down and poster), copies of which are given out to the attendees. This is also available in the relative section of the DG MARE website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/agreements/index\\_es.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/agreements/index_es.htm)

#### **4- Update of latest negotiations and meetings held by the European Commission in topics related to fisheries agreement with third countries or regions.**

##### **a. Agreements in West Africa.**

Mr. Emmanuel Berck, representative of the DG MARE Fisheries Agreements unit, informs that there are currently 14 active fishing protocols, 10 of which are tuna agreements and 4 are mixed agreements.

He highlights that the political recognition of these agreements permits improving governance, in fact, he underlines that the sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) are a model of transparency, of non-discrimination, and are models to follow, which may be of reference both for the Coastal States and for the flag of foreign fleets.

The developments by countries are set out below:

- Mauritania: This is the main fisheries agreement, in terms of quantity. A new protocol was signed in November, with a downside of fishing possibilities, divided into 8 categories. An attempt will be made to hold the first mixed commission for implementing the agreement in May. The date cannot be confirmed yet due to the difficulty encountered by the Mauritanian authorities to close their agenda. Aspects such as sectoral support and the playing field for the use and destination of the funds derived from them will be discussed. With respect to this Mixed Commission, noteworthy is the sectoral support based on the report of the Court of Auditors, as the achievements that the protocols have obtained will continue to be assessed in the future.

Regarding the issue of compulsory transshipments: one of the objectives of the Macapel project is for the transshipments to be carried out at the port of Noadhibou, and the landings in the Canary Islands, more specifically, at the Las Palmas port, so they expect a positive evolution of this issue.

On the other hand, he highlights that if the European Parliament is quick (it should vote in May) and if the protocol can be in force in May, a procedure could be stipulated whereby the Commission, in agreement with the third country, could make modifications to the protocol.

- Morocco: This is an important protocol. However, the political relations have become complicated since the CJEU passed the cancellation of the agricultural product trade agreement, resulting in Morocco freezing all discussions with the EU as a diplomatic lobbying measure.

Likewise, he informs that the last Mixed Commission took place in 2015. He highlights that although the protocol has been applied and licences are being issued as normal, they are affected by the current existing political climate.

- Guinea Bissau: The Commission is aware of the delay that is taking place in the delivery of fishing licences, due to the slow paperwork of the country, but they are trying to solve the problem. However, fishing operations are taking place without incidents. The agreement expires in November 2017 so negotiations will start for the renewal. The Scientific Committee meets from 29 to 31 March.
- Senegal: This is an agreement that works well. Although it is mainly a tuna agreement, it has a demersal dimension due to the stock of black hake (2 vessels). Worthy of note is that Guinea Bissau and Senegal have a common scientific committee with quite satisfactory results.

- Cape Verde: A meeting of the mixed commission is scheduled to be held at the end of April or beginning of May to discuss satellite control and tracking aspects (VMS, ERS).
- Sao Tomé and Principe: They obtained good results, such as for instance, the adoption of a package of measures by the Ministry of Finances to use sectoral support funds or to create a modern fishing control centre to improve their SVC systems. There is already good use of the VMS and the progressive installation of the ERS will be promoted.
- Liberia: The new tuna agreement was signed on 9 December 2015, although it was applied temporarily in the month of November, due to administrative delays. Financially, it is modest with regard to the EU contribution.
- Gabon: A technical meeting was held. They have a reference tonnage of 20,000 tons; however, they have requested more than 30,000 tons. He highlights the importance of this agreement for the tuna fleet. They are trying to start negotiations for 2017; they have called the mixed commission to review the reference tonnage. The first round was of cooperation at a technical level; the fishing possibilities will be discussed in the second round that will be held next week. The disproportionate financial sum requested by Gabon is highlighted. In addition to another complicated technical question, which is the management of the FADs.
- Sierra Leona: They showed interest in the beginning; however the EC requested confirmation and they have had no further news.

#### Members' questions and answers from the Commission

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, asks the EC representative if it is possible for them to provide the LDAC secretariat with an updated calendar of meetings of the next Scientific and Mixed Commissions of Morocco and Mauritania, with a view to greater transparency and participation of the stakeholders in the application process of these meetings. Likewise, she asks if there is a deadline for using the available funds for sectoral support in Mauritania and if the EC has noticed if this specific country is making efforts to be more transparent.

The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck confirms that the calendar with the next meetings of the mixed commissions will be sent, informing of the coming ones:

- Comoros and Senegal: From 18 to 21 April
- Cape Verde: April or May
- Mauritius: May
- Seychelles Islands: June
- Tanzania: Second fortnight in July
- Morocco: After summer

Regarding the sectoral support, he informs that no specific date for the use of that financial item is stipulated in the agreement. Regarding improved transparency by Mauritania, he highlights the importance of conferences such as the one held in Nuakchot (FiTI).

**Action:**

**The LDAC Secretariat will ask DG MARE for the updated calendar of the next Mixed Commission meetings.**

Ms. M<sup>a</sup> Jose Cornax, OCEANA, indicates that there has been recent news about two vessels classified as IUU, which have re-flagged in Mauritania, highlighting that this could lead to negative consequences in the negotiations of the bilateral agreement with the EU. She asks if the EC has taken this information into account in the discussions and if there is any intention to warn Mauritania about this issue.

Mr. Emmanuel Berck, EC, highlights that if his colleagues from the IUU fishing and control unit detect any problem, they will act accordingly. If these two vessels are located, Mauritania will be informed.

Mr. Rob Banning, DPFTA, explains the problem regarding the number of Mauritanian crew members aboard, and hopes that they will be in time to solve the problem. The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Bert, indicates that he hopes that this issue can be solved in the mixed commission.

Mr. Marc Ghiglia, UAPF, comments that there is no overview of the catch data, and the information available is contradictory. The declaration system established of EUROSTATE or FAO is in the domain of the Member States, obtaining different data depending on the source consulted. From his viewpoint, action should be taken to unify data, insofar as it produces a negative image of European fishing in third countries.

Mr. Emmanuel Berck, EC, points out that this is not easy, as there is sometimes a method problem. He indicates that the methodologies must be consolidated by the scientific institutes and that more research studies should be conducted.

Ms. Mercedes Rodriguez, OPP-Lugo, states that she does not understand the discrepancy about the catch data, both due to the completion of the onboard diary (OBD) and the landing statement, and even the sales notes. She gives the example of the fleet she represents (surface longliners that benefit from the agreements with Mauritania and Cape Verde), highlighting that all the reported data tally perfectly (the catch data with the commercial data). She underscores that there are many vessels that are complying perfectly with the data control, highlighting the effort made by the European fleet, which exercises professional and committed fishing.

The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, explains that all the factors must be taken into account when transmitting the data, as defects may take place in the coastal States. However, he supports the statements made by Ms. Rodriguez, to the extent that the European fleet meets the regulation. He informs that they are trying to apply the electronic diary in all agreements (ERS).

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, suggests that discussing the sectoral support in Guinea Bissau would be positive, insofar as there are few tangible results for the moment. However, in the report written by the Court of Auditors, it states that some objectives have been achieved, so she requests, if possible, the publication of documents or reports that explain them.

Mr. Emmanuel Berck clarifies that a request has expressly been made in the report of the Court of Accounts on fisheries agreements, to work on the sectoral support. The directives are currently being reviewed. Regarding the visibility of the results obtained, thanks to the sectoral support, he thinks that the EU has financed many projects whose result has not been obviously publicised or shown, but that they exist.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, suggests the possibility of preparing infographics or a publication of what is done, thanks to the sectoral support of the agreements.

Mr. Julio Moron supports this idea, highlighting the importance of visualising and showing the effectiveness of the sectoral support.

**Action: The LDAC will propose that the Commission should prepare a publication or infographics (similar in design and format to that of APPD/SFPA) that will contain figures and data about infrastructures, services and other investment actions carried out, under the protection of the sectoral support in third countries that are beneficiaries of the fisheries agreement with the EU. The underlying idea is to communicate better or make visible the sectoral support that the EU provides, in the form of financing port facilities, analysis laboratories, ice plants, etc.**

Mr. Juan Pablo Rodriguez, ANABAC, informs that they had problems obtaining the renewal of the fishing licence in some African riparian states at the end of the year. He insists on the need for the Commission to have fast responsiveness,

The Commission representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, responds that the delays are not due to faults of the European Commission that processes licences in 5 days at the most. He highlights that, in the months of November and December, they were in permanent contact with the different administrations of the third countries insisting on the delivery of licences.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, indicates how important it is not to interrupt the fishing, so they are willing to bring the proceedings forward to September or October, and make an effort to pay for the renewal of licences, even several months in advance.

Mr. Juan Pablo Rodriguez, ANABAC, asks why Gabon takes so long to issue the European licences, once all the requests have been sent and the relative payments made.

The Commission representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, indicates that he thinks that this problem has not been solved; however, he highlights that they wanted to apply the topic of by-catches more firmly. He points out that he will check this matter.

#### **b. Agreements in the Indian Ocean**

- Comoros: It is a country with yellow card due to not cooperating in the fight against IUU fishing. They must take measures at Administration level with respect to the control, supervision of fishing areas, and management regarding the flags of convenience. If it should come to a red card, it would not be possible to fish there or market their fishing products without having an agreement with the EU. He thinks that

adjustments will have to be made in the negotiation insofar as they are agreements that are not used in their entirety (related to the reference tonnage).

- Seychelles: This is the main agreement in the area and it is working well. The discussion about Maritime Protected Areas has been postponed for the moment and assessment guarantees have been included. Some problems have been encountered regarding the sectoral support, with interruption of payment by the Mixed Commission until additional supporting documentation is received.
- Mozambique: Renewal negotiations were interrupted on 1 June 2015, due to the demand for exorbitant conditions by the Mozambique negotiators. A meeting was held last week of the Mixed Commission to review the protocol and verify the objectives achieved with the sectoral support. The European Commission expressed interest in the agreement and the proposal was made to review some terms to start up negotiations again, having to make downward adjustments. He highlights that the whole Ministry team has changed since last year.
- Mayotte: Nothing new, everything is going fine.
- Madagascar: The agreement works very satisfactorily. The cooperation between the Ministries works, the sectoral support is well used, and there is surveillance and control, not only of the fishing activities but of the plant health conditions.

#### Members' questions and answers from the Commission:

Mr. Marc Ghiglia, UAPF, informs about the Seychelles Maritime Protected Area (MPA). He indicates that, with the aid of a financial entity of an NGO (Global Ocean Foundation / TNC) refinancing was obtained for its debt in exchange for creating an MPA. He poses the doubt of how this MPA is going to be managed, and who will have the last word or decision in terms of governance; if it will be the Administration of the Seychelles Government, or the actual Foundation Board.

Mr. Juan Pablo Rodriguez, ANABAC, asks about the state of the negotiation with Tanzania and Kenya. Regarding Mozambique, he points out that although last year's experiences were negative, the team has changed and they are still interested in signing an agreement.

Mr. Emmanuel Berck responds about Seychelles that the information set out by Mr. Ghiglia was addressed in December, highlighting that the MPA was not going to affect the agreement. About Tanzania, he indicates that they still have not started to negotiate, as they had elections in October 2015 and there is a new Minister. He expresses the wish of the EC to advance in possible negotiations with this country.

Respect to Kenya, he informs that they have no negotiation mandate. In fact, this country has not expressed any interest in starting negotiations.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, underlines, about the MPA, that his organisation, together with ORTHONGEL and ANABAC, form part of the working group of stakeholders, in the consultation process with representatives from the Seychelles small-scale and sport fishing. The Seychelles

Ministry of Economy is promoting this initiative to set up the committee to establish that MPA. However, he highlights that the areas will be defined between 2016 and 2017, but it is not clear how they are going to be managed.

### c. Agreements in the Pacific Ocean

The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, informs about developments in:

- Cook Islands: There is a new agreement, which permits being present in the WCPFC. The agreement is for 4 fishing vessels, with a financial contribution of 350,000 Euros per year of sectoral support. The text adoption process is ongoing, they should be adopted in April by the commission, with provisional application after the signature. A period of 6 to 8 weeks is foreseen to be able to fish there.
- Kiribati, Solomon and Micronesia: These are dormant agreements (with no valid protocol).

#### Members' questions and answers from the Commission:

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, reflects about the problems in terms of EU coherence and coordination regarding the three elements that make up the external dimension: regional fishery agreements, high sea management (RFMOs and international waters) and fight against IUU fishing. He considers that coordination must improve in order to improve international governance of the seas. He observes that sometimes there is little coordination between the fishery agreements and the RFMOs, so it would be a good thing to develop a strategy in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans in order to improve governance.

**Action: SG4 suggests that the EC should develop a coherent strategy to improve international governance in the management of fisheries in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. A proposal to DG MARE and DG DEVCO could be included in this document, about including LDAC as a party in the development project of its interest. In particular, the proposal to include LDAC as a partner or potential collaborator in the description of the future Smartfish 2 project (that will not begin before 2018-9) is made.**

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, comments that there are cases of incoherence respect to data about the European fishing vessel census and register, indicating that they need to be reviewed and updated, for the FAR. He highlights that the way the Member States report is chaotic.

The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, underlines the efforts of the EC which is currently updating the EU database.

**ACTION: The LDAC Secretariat will invite the person from DG MARE who is responsible for European long distance vessel census update and review projects ("EC Fleet Register") as well as the person responsible for computerising the issuance of licences.**

## 5- Report on compliance by Third Countries with the IUU regulation

The EC representative, Ms. Desirée Kjolsen, gives a summary on the countries' compliance with the fight against IUU fishing. Highlighting cases of some success countries such as, for example: Ghana. In contrast, other countries (8) have obtained the yellow card: Curacao, Solomon, Papua New Guinea, St Kitts and Nevis, Taiwan, Thailand and Comoros.

- Thailand: Its legal and regulatory framework is obsolete. They must improve many aspects such as adopting a new sanctioning system, and new conservation and management measures, as well as reinforcing control over their fleet and improving the MCS.
- Comoros: The main problem are the flags of convenience.
- Respect to the countries with "red card" who are forbidden from trading their own catches (Cambodia, Guinea Conakry and Sri Lanka), there are no new developments.
- US and Japan: Cooperation between these two countries has increased.

On the other hand, the EC representative highlights that modernisation is essential to apply the Regulation against IUU fishing. Work must be done to obtain an electronic verification system of the catches. The EU has made a lot of progress in obtaining a global catch certificate; however, other countries are still not prepared or convinced about it.

There is great interest in the FAO to ratify the Port State Measures (PSM) and advances are expected in the near future, as only 4 countries still have to ratify it for it to be able to enter into force.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, asks about compliance with working conditions in Thailand, as social issues are not covered in the regulation against IUU fishing. He indicates that the LDAC is concerned about the labour and social aspects, so he asks how she believes that this aspect may affect illegal fishing, and how this advisory council can focus our concern in this matter.

The EC representative, Ms. Desiree Kjolsen, indicates that nothing is established about working conditions in the regulation; however, other EC services are responsible for these questions (DG HOME, DG EMPLOYMENT, DG DEVCO). Although DG MAR participates in regular meetings with other services, it has no specific mandate with respect to intervening in working conditions. However, she believes that if control is improved in fishing, this will indirectly benefit the workers' working and social conditions.

Ms. M<sup>a</sup> Jose Cornaz, OCEANA, comments that, in the context of the regulation against IUU fishing, seemingly two IUU vessels were re-flagged in Mauritania. She suggests that this topic could be addressed in the Fishing Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

Ms. Desiree Kjolsen, EC representative, informs she has no news about this. The Commission made a visit, within the framework of the Regulation against IUU fishing, to carry out an assessment in 2010, and since then they have not returned. On the topic of

the two re-flagged vessels, she requests any evidence of this to be passed on to her team in order to investigate the issue.

**Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, with respect to this topic, informs that one action of WG5 will be for the LDAC Secretariat to send a letter to the EC IUU Unit explaining the objective criteria or elements included to investigate a country and its subsequent identification as non-cooperative, as well as the assessment methodology.**

Mr. Marc Ghiglia, UAPF, asks about the estimation of the illegal fishing level on a global scale, underlining that having an updated report that reflects the impact of the application of the European regulation against IUU fishing would be very positive (as the last official report dates back to 2000). He thinks that these policies must be analysed in order to verify the evolution at a global level.

The EC representative, Ms. Desiree Kjolsen, believes that it is difficult to quantify what is illegal, but that considerable progress has been made in terms of awareness-raising and politics on this topic in many countries. She thinks that cooperation is the way to improve the fight against IUU fishing in international forums (FAO, ILO, ...), as it is a global fight. In this regard, she highlights that countries such as the US or Japan are thinking about doing something in this regard.

## **6- Coherence between the Agreements Policy and the RFMOs:**

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, introduces the topic, setting out that the reform of the CFP has represented a success insofar as the European policy has become more coherent at an international level. However, there are still coordination faults and the fishing management must be improved.

### **a. SWIOFC Initiatives on minimum fishery agreement conditions**

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, indicates that if the EC were a full member of the SWIOFC, it would be very positive, as France, out of all the EU, is the only member country.

The EC representative, Ms. Eduarda Duarte, highlights that riparian countries consider that the SWIOFC is a coordination forum whose aim is to defend their positions before the CTOI. She highlights that the DG DEVCO will increase its work potential in the SWIOFC through the Smartfish framework, which has already financed several of these meetings. Even though the Smartfish project will end in 2017 or 2018, although it could be renewed. This would be an opportunity for the LDAC to participate in the new Smartfish.

On the other hand, she highlights that in the Indian Ocean they coordinate a great deal with the World Bank, apart from the work they carry out with Member States and Development Agencies, although she points out that from DG MARE it is not easy for them to contact this type of agency, so it is a point that they must improve.

Respect to coordination with European agencies, she informs that a world fisheries development advisors network, the EFDAN, is organising a preparation course for the next meeting, which will probably be held in June and which DG MARE, DG DEVCO, the Development Agencies, the World Bank and Norway will participate in, with the possibility of the LDAC also attending.

Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CAFF-CAPE, on the Court of Auditors' report, comments the importance of guaranteeing the adequate and effective use of the funds, in agreement with the objectives foreseen. She highlights how important the real impact is, in terms of improving the MCS systems in the fight against IUU fishing. On the other hand, she informs that regarding the projects that exist in Sierra Leona to fight against IUU fishing, they still have problems, so these would have to be analysed. She suggests that, as LDAC, we could help foster compliance with the objectives.

The EC representative, Ms. Eduarda Duarte, comments that they expect a positive evolution from Mozambique.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, suggests that the LDAC could sign an MoU, similar to the one the COMHAFAT has with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). He also highlights that starting the dialogue with Smartfish and initiating contacts and dialogue with countries such as Kenya or Tanzania would be very positive, and if successful, try to extend this idea to the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).

Ms. Eduarda Duarte, EC representative, believes that it is a favourable time to discuss with the countries and the Commissions as seemingly they are open to dialogue with the European Union.

**Action: The LDAC will ask DG MARE to attend the next meeting of SWIOFC as an observer, under the EU delegation.**

**Action: A letter will be drafted, addressed to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), offering the institutional collaboration of the LDAC by means of the possible signature of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between both organisations. More specifically, the collaboration of the LDAC will be offered in terms of achieving a regional strategy or approach to harmonise the fishery agreements, as well as to improve transparency in decision-making and international governance, at RFO level, and of the fight against IUU fishing.**

#### **b. ECOWAS-IAR MSC/IUU meeting**

ECOWAS is an intergovernmental economic community responsible for fishing.

The EC representative, Ms. Eduarda Duarte, informs that DG DEVCO is an interlocutor in ECOWAS. In fact, they have managed to reserve an item of 15 million Euros within the entire budget for the fishing sector.

She also informs that a meeting was organised to detect problems on control and monitoring of Western Africa, and in fact, she indicates that they conducted a study that they can send to the LDAC.

They want to hold another meeting to mark the project lines co-financed by the EU. An external consultant will be hired for this. Furthermore, the COMHAFAT could be included at coordination level, with the EFCA providing technical support. These ideas will be defined in greater detail in coming months. In fact, she indicates that the EC could consult the LDAC in some aspects. It is essential to monitor the projects and for them to have an impact, in order to develop the regional dimension.

**Action: The Commission will keep the LDAC up to speed about the ECOWAS meetings.**

**Action: The Commission will invite the LDAC to participate in the next meeting of EFDAN (European Fisheries development advisors network).**

#### **c. ABNI Tuna Project Meeting, Ghana, March 2016**

Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, highlights that from Europe they are not involved in this project. In fact, the workshop planned on the harvest control rules (HCR) for the month of March, has been put back to the end of August. This is a capacity-building on catch assessment strategies. All the countries of the ICCAT would be involved in this project.

### **7.- Role of the LDAC in regional projects on fishing transparency:**

#### **a) Indian Ocean: Smartfish Project**

Already discussed in point 6.1

#### **b) Atlantic Ocean: Tuna Transparency Initiative (TTI)**

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, indicates that the second seminar of the COMHAFATA will be held in Morocco on 2 and 3 June next, on Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) of the EU, with special emphasis on the harmonisation of access conditions and on strengthening the cooperation dimension for development. He points out that this workshop and a previous one on the fight against IUU fishing, held in November 2015, were financed by DG MARE with technical assistance from the LDAC. It is important to highlight the importance of the community agreements and make them extensive.

**Action: Within the framework of the strategic collaboration with COMHAFAT, the terms of reference for the start-up of a regional programme of observers onboard fishing vessels for highly migratory species in Western Africa will be distributed among all members (if COMHAFAT authorises this).**

**Action:** The LDAC will assist the COMHAFAT Secretariat in the preparation of the second seminar financed by the EU on Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements of the EU. In this regard, it will send suggestions with names of speakers and institutions to be invited (including the World Bank, the African Union, the Regional Fisheries Sub-commissions, as well as a large representation of its members. Furthermore, it will suggest topics to be included in the programme. This event will be held in Al Jadida (Morocco) on 2 and 3 June.

**c) Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI) Conference –  
Nouakchott, 3-4 Feb. 2016**

Ms. M<sup>a</sup> Jose Cornax, OCEANA, informs that a small-scale fleet group and a long-distance group were created (it is a member of the latter). She highlights that there is a block dedicated to catches but they still have to determine how to structure it. In fact, they will carry out two case studies, one in the Seychelles and another in Mauritania on the industrial fleet, and that Senegal and Indonesia have also joined in with this initiative.

She thinks that it is a positive initiative that should be supported by the maximum number of countries and that its parameters are also in line with those of the European Commission, and that it would give very good results and would improve the public image.

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez, Secretary of the LDAC, points out that he attended the FiTI meeting, where topics such as the methodology or the case studies were discussed. Then he asks what minimum conditions the countries must have to develop the multi-stakeholder groups and establish the transparency compliance criteria within the FiTI. He also asks members about the role or mandate assigned to the Secretariat of the LDAC when it attends this type of meetings.

Ms. M<sup>a</sup> Jose Cornax, OCEANA, responds that each interested country must create a multi-sectoral Committee with representation of all players and that these will be the ones who verify if the guidelines proposed by FiTI are followed. About the role of the LDAC in that type of meetings, she thinks that it is the Executive Committee that must decide this.

On her part, Ms. Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, comments that it would be very positive to get Mauritanian or Senegalese players together for them to improve their governance in practice and not only through reports.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, believes that, on not having a defined stance on FiTI, the figure of the LDAC Secretariat must be as an observer (listen and report), with the CFP framework (SFPA,...) and stances prior to the LDAC as reference for those meetings. On the other hand, he highlights that the countries in FiTI must indicate how far they want to go, as well as the legal instruments that they will use to have greater transparency.

**Action:** With respect to the international Fishing Transparency Initiative (FiTI), the LDAC will continue working on this project, defining the transparency standards and participating in the Advisory Committee. It will be informed of the evolutions of the multi-stakeholders group that is established in each country, as well as the verification of the data and information used to present annual reports. The Secretary will adhere its mandate to actions agreed within the LDAC and within the framework of the EU legislation (CFP) and of the FAO on transparency, and will seek authorisation or clear mandate from the Executive Committee to carry out specific additional actions.

#### **8.- LDAC-COMHAFAT work report**

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, informs about the meeting held with DG DEVCO and the COMHAFAT, to look for synergies and explain the monitoring of the regional observer programme proposal.

#### **9.- Other matters**

No others matters to be discussed are proposed.

#### **10.- Date and place of the next WG4 meeting.**

The next meeting will be held in October in Brussels.

#### **11.- Closure**

**The meeting is closed at 1.35 pm.**

**ANNEX. LIST OF THOSE PRESENT**

**LDAC Working Group 4  
Brussels, 11 March 2016**

**WG 4 MEMBERS**

1. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
2. Maria José Cornax. OCEANA
3. Erik Olsen. Living Sea
4. Juan Manuel Liria. FEOPE/CEPESCA
5. Sandra Sanmartin. EBCD
6. Despina Symons. EBCD
7. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
8. Beatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
9. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
10. Raúl García. WWF
11. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
12. Katarina Sipic. CONXEMAR
13. Laura Koene. EUROTHON
14. Rob Banning. Dutch pelagic freezer trawler association.
15. Irene Vidal. EIJ
16. Juan Pablo Rodríguez. ANABAC
17. Edelmiro Ulloa. ANAPA/ANAMER/ACEMIX/AGARBA
18. Mercedes Rodríguez. OPP-Lugo
19. Luis Vicente. ADAPL
20. Marta Llopis. CONXEMAR
21. Marc Ghiglia. UAPF

**OBSERVERS**

22. Emmanuel Berck. EC
23. Jurate Smalskyte. EC
24. Eduarda Duarte de Sousa. EC
25. Desiree Kjolsen and Manuela Musella. EC
26. Jesús Iborra. PE
27. Konstantinos Kalamantis. PE
28. Lea Lebechnech. EBCD
29. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
30. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC
31. Marta de Lucas. LDAC