



MINUTES OF THE LDAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Long Distance Advisory Council
Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire
Dublin – Ireland

Thursday 28 May 2015
09:30 - 12:30 h

Chairman: Antonio Schiappa Cabral
First Vice Chair: Juan Manuel Liria Franch
Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez (Secretariat)

1. Welcome

The First Vice Chair, Mr. Liria Franch, welcomes those present and mentions the delegations of vote received:

- Mr. Stöckhausen (Seas at Risk) delegates to Mr. Olsen (Living Sea);
- Mr. Pedersen (Ocean Tiger), delegates to Mr. Severet (ELDFA);
- Ms. Rodríguez (OPP Lugo), Mr. Garat (FEOPE) and Mr. Morón (AGAC/OPAGAC) delegate to Ms. Béjar (ONAPE);
- Mr. Commere (FIAC) delegates to Mr. Castro (ANFACO-CECOPECA)
- Mr. Gatt (SPFA) delegates to Mr. Deas (NFFO).

The list of participants (members and observers) is included in Annex I.

The members are informed that there is the necessary quorum (50% of the total number of members present or represented) for the adoption of decisions.

Then, the First Vice Chair informs that the Chairman, Mr. Cabral, is on indefinite sick leave and reports that he has written a letter addressed to all members to inform them about his condition.

The Assistant Secretary, Ms. Marta de Lucas, reads the letter to the members present on behalf of the Secretariat. ***Antonio Cabral's letter is enclosed as Annex II to these minutes.***

The proposal of the Chairman and the Secretariat to appoint Mr. Juan Manuel Liria Franch as LDAC acting Chairman while the former is on sick leave is put forward. The members of the General Assembly present and represented at the meeting support and unanimously approve this proposal.

DECISION: The members of the LDAC General Assembly appoint the First Vice Chair, Mr. Juan Manuel Liria Franch, acting Chairman while the Chairman Mr. Antonio Cabral is on sick leave.



ACTION: It is reminded that there will be elections for members and positions of the Executive Committee of the LDAC at the next General Assembly 2016, since the 3-year mandate will be coming to its end (1 June 2013 - 31 May 2016).

2. Reading and approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved with no modifications.

No additional issues are proposed under “Any other business”.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (Lisbon, 28 May 2014)

The minutes of the previous meeting are approved with no comments.

4. Report by the Secretariat and the Chairmanship on Years 8 and 9

4.1. Annual Report on the work carried out in Year 8 and Strategic Plan for Year 9

The Secretary General, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, presents the Annual Report on the work carried out by the organisation throughout Year 8 (1 June 2014 - 31 May 2015) on behalf of the Chairman and the Executive Committee. He also sums up the conclusions and agreements of the main meetings and the content of letters, recommendations and opinions adopted by consensus.

Subsequently, the Annual Strategic Plan is presented with work priorities for Year 9 (that will start on 1 June 2015), in conformity with article XV (sections b and d) of the LDAC Rules of Procedure in force.

The nine work priorities proposed and approved by the Executive Committee are:

1. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)
2. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) as a tool to fight against IUU fishing
3. Application of the External Dimension of the Common fisheries Policy (ED CFP)
4. Transparency and good governance initiatives in decision-making at regional and international level
5. Analysis of the impact on and consequences for relevant fisheries of the application of the Landing Obligation (LO) in non-EU waters (international waters and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, RFMOs)
6. Work in the framework of RFMOs: Participation in technical and preparatory meetings, provision of strategic opinions to the European Commission, attendance to annual NAFO, NEAFC and ICCAT meetings.
7. Fisheries agreements between the EU and Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland
8. Trading agreements (EPAs, FTAs)
9. United Nations agreements and conventions / FAO resolutions



The complete presentation of the annual report of Year 8 and the strategic plan for Year 9 are available on the LDAC website: www.ldac.eu

Issues and comments of the GA members

The GA members share their opinions on the work carried out in this year and put forward the following issues on the strategic plan for Year 9:

- The acting Chairman, Mr. Liria, highlights the good working relationship there is with the DG MARE regarding the preparation of the opinion for the NAFO Annual Meeting. He recalls that, according to article 15 of the Basic Regulation 1380/2013 of the CFP, the landing obligation will come into force for non-EU waters on 1 January 2017.
- Mr. Suárez-Llanos proposes carrying out a more comprehensive follow-up of the documents and opinions drafted by the LDAC and their response by the European Commission and the Member States as main recipients. He suggests a report or summary sheet be drafted with the results to be presented at the next General Assembly.
In addition, he requests mention is made of the Strategy Horizon 2020 in terms of the internationalisation of European fishing SMEs.
- Ms. Béjar insists that the EU must stress the need to convey and spread the fins-attached policy for sharks caught to contracting parties in RFMOs.
- Mr. García believes that a multiannual work roadmap should be drafted with RFMOs, especially as far as harvest control rules (HCR) are concerned, and that a comparative assessment of horizontal issues such as the use of FADs should be carried out.
- Ms. Gorez encourages the strengthening of consistency among EU policies, insisting on the responsibility and transparency when informing about the use of EU funds allocated to sectoral support and reinforcing the skills in coastal states of third countries (EMFF and Development funds). She requests regular information be submitted on the situation and result of the project, where financing is intended to go, etc. Specific examples: Smarfish (IOTC), FITI.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly unanimously approve the annual report on Year 8 and the strategic annual plan for Year 9, and both are considered to be formally adopted according to articles XIII and XV section a) of the LDAC rules of procedure.

4.2. Provisional calendar of meetings

The Secretary General explains the calendar of meetings for the second semester of 2015 and the first four-month period of 2016.

ACTION: This calendar will be available on the LDAC web site and members will be duly informed via email /web of confirmed dates and updates as they take place.



5. Administrative and financial issues:

5.1. Changes in the LDAC membership: list of new members and those that have cancelled their membership

The Secretariat informs that the LDAC is made up of 51 members of the General Assembly, 23 of whom are also members of the Executive Committee.

New members

The following associations have submitted a formal request to join the LDAC:

1. *Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)* – www.ejfoundation.org Category: Environmental NGO / Other stakeholders. Main headquarters: London (UK)
Designated representatives: Irene Vidal and Alberto Martín.
2. *Spanish Association of Wholesalers, Importers, Manufacturers and Exporters of fish products and Aquaculture (CONXEMAR)* – www.conxemar.com – Category: Fisheries sector – processing and marketing. Main headquarters: Brussels (EU).
Representatives: Anna Boulova and Pablo Lourenzo.
3. *The Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA Ltd.)* – www.swfpa.com
Category: Catching Sector. Main headquarters: Scotland (UK). Designated representative: Mike Park.

The abovementioned organisations carry out a brief presentation of their missions, aims, composition and members, sources of financing and they explain the reason why they wish to be members of the LDAC. They publicly introduce themselves before the members of the General Assembly and answer their questions or queries.

DECISION: After consulting with the European Commission and the Member States and answering the questions of the members, the inclusion/joining of EJF, CONXEMAR and SWFPA Ltd. as LDAC members is unanimously approved by the AG members present and represented.

Memberships cancelled

It is reported that four organisations have cancelled their LDAC membership:

1. European Anglers Alliance (Recreational Fisheries / Other Stakeholders – EU)
2. VianaPesca Ltd. (Catching Sector – Portugal)
3. Interatún (Marketing Fisheries Sector – Spain)
4. Spanish Confederation of Responsible Recreational Fishing

Regarding the case of VianaPesca, the Chairman explains that the reason for them to cancel their membership was their disapproval of the decision making process that led to the change of approach agreed by consensus with the NGOs regarding the opinion submitted by the LDAC to the European Commission in November 2014 concerning the ban on finning for sharks and promoting its extension to all RFMOs.



Mr. Liria trusts that Mr. Portela Rosa will reconsider his decision and will continue being an active member of the LDAC General Assembly and Executive Committee, given his valuable knowledge, experience and due to the fact that he represents the Portuguese longline fleet in non-EU waters.

Ms. Parada (ORPAGU) volunteers to mediate in this regard and meet up with Mr. Portela Rosa to try to change his mind and persuade him to continue within the LDAC. She will coordinate her activity with the LDAC Secretariat and will inform the latter about any progress made.

ACTION: Mr. Liria and Ms. Parada, with the support and collaboration of the Secretariat, will contact Mr. Portela Rosa to convey that the members of the General Assembly wish Vianapesca to continue as LDAC member.

5.2. Presentation of the accounts of financial year 8 (June 2014-May 2015)

The Secretary gives a detailed presentation of the breakdown of the accounts and lists the income received and expenses incurred by the LDAC, as well as the calendar of pending actions. All the member organisations have paid their fees and it is expected that the 5 Member States with outstanding fees will pay them before the end of the year, as it is case with the final outstanding amount from the European Commission once the audit report and the final report are presented.

The Secretary points out that the Secretariat sent a request for amendment of the budget to the Commission on 30 April to accurately reflect the current situation in terms of income and expenditure. This amendment was approved on 26 May. It is highlighted that at the end of the financial year (31 May) a balanced budget with zero deficit and an expenditure level close to 100% is expected to be met, as it had been forecast.

The Chairman thanks the Secretary for his presentation and reports that the Executive Committee recommends the General Assembly's approval of the provisional accounts taking into account that the year has not been closed since payment for the last meetings is yet to be made.

The presentation is available on the section dedicated to the meeting on the LDAC's website: www.ldac.eu

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly approve by consensus the final budget and the annual accounts for Year 8 with no objections.

5.3. Presentation of financial Year 9 (1 June-31 May 2016)

After the presentation of the budget proposal of the Executive Committee carried out by the Secretary General (available on the website), the Chairman recommends the General Assembly's approval of the budget for the following financial year, from 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016.



Before proceeding to its approval, it is highlighted that it is a provisional minimum budget while reception of fees from Member States is awaited, including the contribution of the Spanish Administration (EUR 139,810).

Owing to the accounting principle of budgetary prudence, only the income actually received (or ensured) is taken into account, amounting to EUR 283,805 over a total forecast amount of EUR 441,141.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly approve by consensus the operational budget for financial Year 9 of the LDAC.

5.4. Proposal to amend the reimbursement rules

The Secretariat, upon request of several members, puts forward a proposal to update the current form and amend the reimbursement rules in order to enable the members of the General Assembly to be reimbursed for their attendance to said meeting, since only the members of the Executive Committee were entitled so far. In addition, it is proposed that the maximum number of nights to be reimbursed for all LDAC meetings is increased to reach the equivalent to the number of meeting days +1, in order to include those cases of delegates that need to take connecting flights and cannot arrive or return on the same day. Attention is drawn to the fact that this will always be subject to budgetary availability and the Secretariat will be responsible for the enforcement of the rules and demanding the necessary supporting documentation.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly approve the proposal to update the current form and amend the reimbursement rules for LDAC members. The new version will be made available to all members and the amendment date will be indicated on the LDAC website.

6. Review and alignment of the LDAC rules of procedure

6.1. EU regulatory framework: mandate, composition, running and financing of Advisory Councils

In the absence of the representative of the European Commission, the Secretariat lists the regulatory changes made due to the coming into force of the new Common Fisheries Policy on 1 January 2014, and the effects that the latter will have on Advisory Councils, that must adapt their internal rules of procedure. A list is made of the relevant applicable articles of the Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, of the Common Fisheries Policy, of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 242/2015 laying down rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils, and the Regulation (EU) 508/2014 of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF).



Attention is drawn to the change in the number of ACs (from 7 to 11), their name (the “regional” dimension of ACs is withdrawn changing from LDRAC to LDAC), the composition of the GA/EXCOM members (that goes from 2/3:1/3 to 60:40 for the fisheries sector and other stakeholders), and the increase in seats for the Executive Committee from 24 to 25 with the possibility of increasing it up to 30 provided that small-scale fisheries are represented (inshore).

6.2. Proposal to amend the LDAC rules of procedure

Based on comments received from the members in previous consultation processes, the Secretariat proposes a series of amendments to be included in the Rules of Procedure in order to align the content with the EU regulatory framework.

In addition, the inclusion of a new text is proposed to update the content of the rules (which dates back to 2007) as well as the reflection of current working practices (for instance, a differentiated article is created to define the role and duties of the Vice Chairs of the Executive Committee or the electronic consultation process is intended to be formalised).

It is made clear that no decision is expected to be taken at this meeting in this regard. The Secretariat will distribute the proposed rules of procedure in writing in the three working languages (EN-FR-ES) providing an ample period (from 1 to 2 months) for the submission of comments. Guidance from the DG MARE coordinator will also be requested. The revised version will be subject to discussion at the next ExCom meeting to be held in November 2015 in order to fine-tune a text agreed by consensus to be voted on at the GA in 2016. It is reminded that the amendment of the rules will have to be approved by qualified majority (2/3) of the members present and represented in an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly meeting.

The complete presentation is available on the LDAC website.

ACTION: The Secretariat will distribute a written version of the proposed rules of procedure, highlighting the changes introduced and providing the members of the General Assembly with an ample period of time (1-2 months) for the submission of comments. The European Commission will be consulted to make sure that the amendments proposed are in line with the CFP principles and EU regulations.

7. Communications and Public Relations Policy

The Secretariat present a report on the updating work carried out in the following areas related to communications and public and institutional relations:

- New Website: Work is still being carried out with web developers Chil.org in terms of design, content migration, functions and security. It is said that there will be significant improvements in the sections on Meetings and Publications in order to enable an easy search of events, working documents and correspondence and opinions published. The new website is expected to be fully operational before the end of the year.

- Corporate material: Efforts are being put into the preparation of an institutional leaflet enabling to present the LDAC work in external events and fora, as well as for distribution among the media as an information medium.
- Information disclosure protocol: The Secretariat will develop a strategic Communications Plan during the next few months to be presented before the members at the next ExCom meeting for it to be adopted by the General Assembly in 2016.
- International Conference on the External Dimension of the CFP:
The Secretariat informs about contacts entered into with the Administrations of the Canary Islands and FEDERPORT to collaborate with technical, logistic and financial support in the organisation of this event that will be held at the Hotel Santa Catalina in Las Palmas on 16 and 17 September 2015. A specialised communications company has been hired to assist the Secretariat in the dissemination of the event, its presence in the media and visibility of contents before, during and after it takes place. An Organising Committee has been set up composed by the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Working Groups for constant monitoring of this event.

The presentation is available in full version on the section dedicated to meetings at the LDAC website.

8. Issues relating to the Fisheries Policy: reports or consultations by the European Commission

8.1. Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

The representative of the European Commission, Ms. Valérie Lainé, carries out a complete oral report on the EC Action Plan for 2015 and on the situation in the different States with which she has been in contact in the fight against IUU fishing this year. She points out the fact that it is a very dynamic process. The EC has initiated conversations with 50 countries, of which 18 have been identified as non-cooperating countries and 4 have been given trading sanctions as a result of them receiving a red card. According to a recent study by the World Bank, the European policy against IUU fishing has a positive impact on the improved governance of the developing coastal countries identified. This is particularly beneficial to inshore fisheries in these countries.

8.1.1. Updating the dialogue and cooperation relations between the EU and third countries:

Countries with a “yellow card”:

- Curaçao: no progress worthy of mention has been made in the alignment of their national regulations to meet their international obligations, with no signs of change in the short or medium term.



- Ghana: successful story, they are on the right track since they have significantly improved the fulfilment of their obligations and their governance. They have a New Fisheries Act, they have introduced VMS in their vessels, they have hired more inspectors, they have implemented a reliable MCS and traceability system for fishing activities, and they work in collaboration with the canned fish industry. A new mission will be carried out in June and, if they continue along these lines, they are expected to have the “yellow card” withdrawn before the end of this year. It could serve as an example for other countries.
- Papua New Guinea: Slow progress is being made but they are on the right track, they must fulfil their obligations before the end of August. They have cooperated in the management of stocks in the Pacific Ocean and they have included a transparency and openness system for VMS and VDS data. A positive decision is expected to be obtained before the end of the year.
- Salomon Islands and Tuvalu: They have until the end of June to fulfil their obligations. These are small countries but with a very large EEZ and surface that work with DG DEVCO on synergies between enforcement of international regulations and fisheries funds. They have to fulfil their obligations before the end of June.
- St. Kitts and Nevis: They have not fulfilled their obligations in terms of monitoring, control and surveillance. There is a pessimistic view on this country since it is identified as bearing a convenience flag. In addition, their registration of vessels is managed by a private organisation based in London. The European Commission will probably suggest changing the yellow card for a red one.

Thailand

- It was given a yellow card. Unstable political situation with a military government in place. They have a very old fisheries law (from 1957) which is ineffective and does not fulfil international regulations, a situation which is known to the country’s authorities.
There is no regulated discouraging system of sanctions, the number of vessels authorised to fish is known, there is no VMS, there is no landing control or effective inspection system.
The EU has been very active on the field and has made significant efforts with 3 missions this year. The relevant authorities have been informed that, in the event that no improvements or efforts are made in the next few months and before the end of September, the possibility of declaring them a non-cooperating country and awarding them a red card with a commercial ban to imports will be considered. A strict, clear and direct message was sent.
It is also suspected that they are violating human and working rights, with situations of forced labour and slavery on board fishing vessels, child labour and organised transport of slaves. Work is being carried out with the Thai immigration and internal affairs service to fight against this situation and the organised mafias involved in this business.

Countries with a “red card”

- Sri Lanka: No progress has been made; they are now at election time. There is hope that they can restore the dialogue and assume their obligations.
- Guinea Conakry: It still has a red card. A meeting was held this week but no progress or improvements were shown, they do not have control or surveillance measures or aerial or maritime inspection means yet. They do not have a transparent license system, or a procedural or judicial system that enables them to research on activities related to IUU fishing. No changes are foreseen.

Report on other countries – New assessments planned

- Liberia: Positive attitude, commitment to collaborate. It is necessary to take measures regarding the registration of merchant vessels.
- Sierra Leone: At a stalemate due to difficulties to contact valid rapporteurs at the Administration, legal gaps are being analysed.
- Tanzania: An onsite research will be conducted with the visit of a delegation planned for July.
- Trinidad and Tobago, Angola: Mission planned for July.
- China: A commercial mission will be carried out next week. The aim will be to maintain a constructive dialogue on different aspects, including collaboration regarding control of fishing activities of their vessels in Western Africa and the Pacific Ocean.
- Comoro Islands: Negative vision, with no adequate control means or regulations to develop their industrial fleet.
- Kenya: Positive dialogue.
- Gambia: Efforts to be carried out.
- Guinea Bissau: Coming out of a war, but showing a strong political will to implement a control system.
- Ecuador: They have not replied to the demand issued by the EC in the month of February urging them to introduce corrective measures in their legislation. They have to introduce improvement measures in terms of control, traceability, VMS, etc. by July. If they continue to take no notice, the EC might have to take measures.
- Taiwan: They remain vigilant.

8.1.2. Review of the application of the IUU Regulation (EC) 1005/2009

The Communication of the EC is about to be completed and is expected to be published in September. There is also a joint working process together with the EU Member States to update catch certificates, and participation in a FAO process on this matter is taking place.



Issues relating to members

Ms. Gorez enquires about the Greenpeace report on the obscurantism of Chinese fleets operating in fishing grounds and EEZ of Western African countries, counting on many occasions with the national authorities of coastal countries as accomplices. She also mentions the case of South Korea where, in her opinion, the yellow card was removed too early since they continue to practice the de-flagging of vessels to get rid of the problem.

Mr. García and Mr. Fontán praise the work and the missions carried out by the EC but voice their concern with the situation in Ecuador and China, respectively.

Mr. Trujillo congratulates the EC for its work and encourages it to be consistent and make the effort of the CFP and the EMFF meaningful to boost the fishing industry in favour of sustainability.

Ms. Béjar joins in the acknowledgements to the EC and insists on the importance of aligning the compliance standards of the IUU Fisheries Regulation in terms of its application and transposition into national regulations in the different EU Member States.

Mr. Ghiglia asks two questions regarding the updated IUU figures, since he understands that no strict study or analysis has been carried out on the impact of the application of the IUU Regulation on these activities. The last report he knows of dates from 2000. He believes that this would be important to improve the external image of the EU and justify this action with clear statistical figures.

Regarding Thailand, Mr. Castro enquires whether the EU continues with the negotiation process aiming at signing a Bilateral Free Trade Agreement. Given the current situation, he asks whether it is being taken into account when negotiating, since it is a direct competitor of the European industry in the canned tuna market. In this regard, he sees some parallelism with the situation of the Philippines and other GSP+ countries that have to comply with a series of internal rules.

Mr. Breikling thinks that it is essential to develop a level playing field in terms of commercial policy and imports of fishing products in the EU market.

In response to the questions asked, Ms. Lainé makes the following remarks:

- The EU is a leading market regarding the traceability of fishing products.
- The catch certificate is a basic instrument in the fight against IUU fishing that has to be compulsorily filled in by third countries wishing to gain access to the EU market.
- There is progressive awareness at global level about the importance of adopting a common approach. In this regard, the EU is currently negotiating with FAO the creation of a working group for the development of a catch certificate with worldwide traceability. There is a task force in the USA, and President Obama has requested NOAA to implement a traceability system for American products in the internal market as well as for imports into the American market.



- Other countries such as Japan or Fiji have joined in this movement.
- The idea is to convince and include Chinese counterparts in this dialogue, using the EU market as a negotiation tool.
- Thailand accounts for 40% of the world production of processed tuna. The EU has adopted a strict position and is meeting up with the European fisheries sector, the Member States and the European Parliament to coordinate its action and provide updated information.
- Member States and the EU are forced to apply the IUU Regulation. They will meet up on 15 June to strengthen their cooperation in this regard.
- The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) has developed a methodology to identify those countries risking failure to comply with IUU fishing regulations.
- Meeting with FAO and Member States in Rome in March, it is expected that in 2 years' time new figures and updated data will be available regarding IUU fishing at regional level, by fisheries, and also at global level.
- The EC will contact Korea to demand that they submit reports and actions performed to solve the violations identified in the report published by Greenpeace. All cooperating countries are aware of the fact that if a country is removed from the list and it makes serious violations, it can be directly awarded the "red card", it is a continuous process.
- She trusts that Ecuador will react and take the necessary actions to solve its regulatory and structural deficiencies in terms of control and traceability of fishing activities.
- The EC has identified, together with the Member States, stakeholders and NGOs that the Gulf of Guinea and Western Africa are a priority area in the fight against IUU fishing, since these activities are concentrated there.

8.2. Review of the Control Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009

In her presentation, Ms. Lainé explains in detail the consultation process that the European Commission will conduct to improve its performance. The final evaluation phase has been reached with the Member States that provide reports on the impact that complying with the control regulation has had. In addition, the EC has visited the Member States and has met up with Fisheries Secretaries and Directors. No revolution is expected, but there is a peaceful evolution regarding the effective application of this Regulation under way. It is considered to be successful, but the idea is to introduce improvements in terms of the use and implementation of new technologies, simplification of performance, reduction of administrative paperwork, etc.

Regarding the working schedule, a consultation period is first granted to Member States (2015) and then to stakeholders (2016) for them to submit proposals or comments about improvements concerning the simplification of rules, the regional approach, the non-discriminatory treatment among EU Member State fleets in compliance with the regulation (known as level playing field), the optimisation of resources and the risk and cost/benefit



assessment of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) operations, as well as aspects regarding technology development.

Finally, it is reported that some Member States have requested the EC to exercise further control and stricter rules on recreational fisheries and that the impact on conservation of some stocks be analysed as it is the case of bass in North Atlantic waters or bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean and South Western Atlantic waters.

Issues relating to members

Mr. Liria insists on how important it is to adopt compatibility measures between the control and regionalisation of fisheries management, especially regarding the application of the landing obligation in non-EU waters, and to clarify the role of the Parliament and the Commission.

Mr. Fontán recalls that ratification and coming into force of the FAO Agreement on port control measures is essential. Accountability lies on the state of the vessel flag, but also on the coastal state and on the port state. He demands the application of this rule be extended to African ports (Noadhibou, Dakar, Agadir, etc.) so that there is no distortion with regard to European ports.

Mr. Trujillo congratulates the EC for its work and encourages it to be consistent and make the effort of the CFP and the EMFF meaningful to boost the fishing industry in favour of sustainability. In addition, he expressly requests the EC to propose the ratification of ILO Convention No. 188 to be able to intensify control in European ports.

In response to the questions asked, Ms. Lainé makes the following remarks:

- Regionalisation is an aspect included in the CFP but different from fighting against IUU fishing. Specific measures for each fishery shall be adopted and a balance should be achieved among the EU principles to prevent competition from being distorted. She invites the LDAC to draft an opinion or to convey its point of view on this matter.
- She agrees with the fact that the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures must urgently come into force as a complementary instrument to the EU Regulation to fight against IUU fishing worldwide.
- She notes the proposal to include ILO Convention No. 188 within the *acquis communautaire*, and she will communicate it to her colleagues at DG MARE and DG LABOUR.



9. Closure of the General Assembly

The Chairman closes the session thanking those members and observers present for their attendance and participation, the Secretariat for their preparatory work for the meeting, the interpreters for their excellent and difficult work, and the technical staff at the Hotel for their professionalism.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30h.



ANNEX I. List of participants

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Juan Manuel Liria. FEOPE
2. Rocío Béjar. ONAPE
3. Marc Ghiglia. UAPF
4. Beatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
5. José Carlos Castro. ANFACO-CECOPECA
6. Peter Breckling. DHV
7. Raúl García. WWF
8. Emil Remisz. NAPO
9. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
10. Mati Sarevet. ELDFA
11. Barrie Deas. NFFO
12. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
13. Erik Bjørn Olsen. Living Sea
14. Iván López. AGARBA/FEABP
15. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
16. Sean O'Donoghue. KFO
17. Jane Sandell. NFFO
18. Pablo Lourenzo. AIPCE

CHAIRS OF WORKING GROUPS

19. José Ramón Fontan (Saliente GT4). ONAPE/OP-ANACEF
20. José Antonio Suárez-Llanos (GT3). ANAMER/AGARBA/ANAPA/ACEMIX

OBSERVERS

21. Valérie Laine. EC DG MARE
22. Irene Vidal. EJF
23. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC Secretariat
24. Marta de Lucas. LDAC Secretariat



**ANNEX II. Welcome message by the Chairman, Mr. Antonio Cabral
For the members of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee
Dublin, 28 May 2015**

In Lisbon, on 26 May 2015

Dear members and colleagues of the LDAC,

Sorry for not being able to attend these important meetings in Dublin, but unfortunately my health troubles don't recommend so far travel efforts.

Despite so, I want to express words of gratitude to all LDAC members for the full support I have felt along these 8 years, since 2007, during which I deserve your trust to have the honour to be chairman. It was an incredible experience, and an opportunity to learn from everyone.

When I was invited to assume this responsibility, and elected in the first GA, my single commitment has been to be neutral, impartial and an add-value to keep a good environment to an honest and frank dialogue among members, not looking their origin or interested fields.

By this time I could not offer any expertise or knowledge in the fishing business because of the little work done in the sector since 2007. Honestly my initial commitment was filled with your comprehension and support.

I want to express as well many thanks to the WG chairs, that were always crucial to provide due information during the EXCOM and GA meetings.

Many thanks to all my colleagues of the LDAC, and especially to the 3 vice chairs that were always available to replace myself in several events when my professional job prevented me from attending.

You can count with me and my organization as basic members, in the near future. So help me God.

Kind regards,

Antonio Cabral