



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Director-General

Brussels,
A2/EG D(2013)

Mr Antonio Cabral
President
Long Distance Regional Advisory
Council
C/Velázquez 41 / 4º
28001 Madrid
SPAIN

**Subject: LDRAC Recommendation on improving good governance and
fight against IUU through the LDRAC-COMHAFAT dialogue**

Yr reference: R-10-13/WG1

Dear Mr Cabral,

Thank you for sharing with us the LDRAC recommendations on improving good governance and fight against IUU through the LDRAC-COMHAFAT dialogue.

We very much share the view that dialogue and cooperation are very important to improve fisheries governance in general and in particular in West and Central Africa and welcome the recommendations approved by the Executive Committee. Better fisheries governance, more transparency and compliance, the fight against IUU, strong policy coherence and capacity building are key priorities of the external dimension of the CFP¹ as laid down in the Commission Communication on the external dimension of the CFP¹ and recently enshrined in the new CFP². We are committed to continue the implementation of these priorities also in the future, including the development of sea-based regional strategies, e.g. for the West of Africa.

We encourage the LDRAC to continue its cooperation with COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO in the framework of its Memorandum of Understanding and to explore possibilities to extend its cooperation with other African Organisations dealing with fisheries. EU rules and procedures do not allow converting this platform into official African-EU fisheries

¹ COM(2011)424 of 13.7.2011.

² Regulation (EU) 1380/2013.

task force that would issue advice to the African countries involved as put forward in Recommendation 1.

We fully understand the wish for harmonisation of rules and procedures and are particularly sensitive to the regionalisation of observer schemes to improve their effectiveness and cost efficiency, in particular in the context of ICCAT where we intend to launch inter-sessional discussions on this topic.

We would appreciate to stay informed about the activities undertaken in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Thank you for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any further question, you can contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Regional Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowri Evans', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lowri Evans