



**General Directors - DG MARE and DG DEVCO**

**Brussels**

Madrid, November the 26<sup>th</sup> 2014

**Subject: Policy Coherence for Development and Fisheries – Atlantic Ocean**

*Dear General Directors from MARE, Ms. Evans, and from DEVCO, Mr. Frutuoso de Melo,*

On behalf of Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) we would like to reiterate our compromise, deep interest and concern about EU policy coherence between development and fisheries.

As we informed you in a previous communication, LDAC is already aware of the EU funded Smartfish project, currently running in the Indian Ocean under EU financial assistance. In fact, our organisation is trying to cooperate further and informed them about the Tuna Transparency Initiative (TTI), launched by the EU tuna sector, in order to increase transparency, harmonization of access conditions to tuna and tuna like species and help the creation of a level playing field and to improve MCS systems in the Indian Ocean at regional level.

Our Advisory Council is making efforts to improve the policy coherence, for that reason, LDAC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding<sup>i</sup> with the COMHAFAT (Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean) to improve the fight against IUU fishing, promoting the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fisheries resources and assist Coastal countries to improve Good Governance and advance on the MCS system at regional level.

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Therefore we would like to propose, to both of your DGs, to launch a fisheries cooperation project concentrated on Regional MCS in the Atlantic Ocean (through COMHAFAT in association with ICCAT) as you already have done in Indian Ocean through IOC. In order to further explain the efforts and compromise of the LDAC members on improving Good Governance in the Coastal Countries of the Atlantic Coast and the practical terms to achieve this objective, we would like to ask for a joint meeting of both DGs and LDAC at your earliest convenience.

We remain at your entire disposal to any help, advice or cooperation you may need.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio Cabral", is written over a horizontal line.

Antonio Cabral

President

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<sup>i</sup> Attached please find as annex I