



Compromise Position from LDAC

Recommendations for ensuring a robust new Fishing Authorisation Regulation (FAR) on sustainable management of external fishing fleets

Date: 4 November 2016

Ref.: R-10-16/WG5

The LDAC supports a future regulation for the sustainable management of the external fishing fleet, which ensures that:

- All fishing activities carried out by EU operators should be in line with Article 28.2(d) of the CFP that aims to ensure the same standards and principles are applied for vessels fishing in both external and internal waters.
- The responsibility for issuing a fishing authorisation is the responsibility of the flag States of the EU. The Commission needs to play a role in ensuring that the eligibility criteria for granting a fishing authorisation are equally complied with by all Member States. Same eligibility criteria should apply to non EU vessels operating within EU waters.
- The transparency and accountability of fishing activities is improved through the creation of a database, with a public part, of fishing authorisations issued to the EU fleet, including information on direct authorisations (private agreements).
- Abusive reflagging activity is addressed through the introduction of conditions to return to the flag of an EU Member State.
- The European Commission should make an effort to revive dormant (not suspended) agreements after three years from the expiration of the last protocol. In case that initiative is not conclusive, a procedure to denounce the agreement should be initiated the European Commission.
- Administrative burden is minimised and procedures are simplified as much as possible by the European Commission, without prejudice to the accountable and transparent management of the EU external fleet.
- The European Commission should withdraw or suspend authorisations of third country vessels if that country is identified as allowing non-sustainable fishing pursuant to Article 4 paragraph 1(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012.

END