



DRAFT MINUTES

19th meeting of LDAC Working Group 4 *Bilateral Relations between EU and third countries*

**Tuesday, 25 October 2016, from 9.30 am to 1 pm
Hotel Martin's Central Park (Martin's Brussels EU)
Boulevard Charlemagne 80
Schuman. Brussels**

1- Welcome and opening of the meeting

The Chairperson, Mr. Julio Moron, welcomes those present and thanks them for attending. The full list of attendees is enclosed as an appendix to this report.

2- Approval of the minutes of the last meeting of WG4 - Brussels, 11 March 2016.

The minutes of the WG4 meeting held on 11 March 2016 are approved, with no additional comments.

3- Approval of the agenda.

The agenda is approved, adding in point 9, on the proposal of Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, the summary of a European Commission study on the beneficial ownership of the European fleet vessels.

4- Monitoring of outstanding actions – topics and/or documents to be discussed:

- a. Draft Letter from LDAC to the Commission to improve transparency in the use and distribution of sectoral support funds in third countries.**

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, introduces this point and explains the content of the letter whereby the Commission is required to offer, in addition to the infographs with general information about the fisheries agreements (which she considers a positive initiative), detailed information about the amounts invested in sectoral support by countries, and their materialisation in specific improvement projects of the infrastructures and socio-economic development of coastal communities of the countries with which sustainable fisheries agreements have been signed.

ACTION

The draft letter written by Ms Béatrice Gorez to improve transparency of the SFPAs and inform about the use of sectoral support in third countries, will be sent by e-mail for ordinary consultation, with a view to it being finally adopted by the Executive Committee.

- b. LDAC Draft Note on FITI Standards.**



The importance of the LDAC Secretariat having a clear and express mandate at the meetings of the FiTI fishing transparency initiative for its participation is recalled.

5- Update by DG MARE of the negotiations and meetings held by the Commission on fisheries agreements with third countries.

- a. Atlantic Ocean: Western Africa**
- b. Indian Ocean**
- c. Pacific Ocean**

Mr. Emmanuel Berck, assistant Head of Unit of Fisheries Agreements of DG MARE and EC representative, informs that the EU fisheries agreements network with third countries has been consolidated and is currently on an upward trend. It now has 14 agreements (10 about tuna and 4 mixed). He then describes the new aspects and ongoing negotiations:

Pacific Ocean

- Cook Islands: This is a new fisheries agreement, balanced in terms of contribution and adapted to the interests of the fleet. It will permit access of 4 tuna vessels to the fishing ground. This is positive for the EU positioning in the WPCFC as it allows it to maintain its presence in the Pacific, given the dormant agreements in Micronesia and Solomon. The EC is going to try to hold the Mixed Commission meeting in spring.

Indian Ocean – African Countries

- Mauritius Islands: The agreement expires in January 2017. Although the agreement is considered modest in terms of catch volume, it is important for a segment of the longliner fleet. It is considered a complementary agreement insofar as the EU has great interest in these islands, an interest that goes beyond just the access of vessels. A second round of negotiations will be held soon. However, the problem is knowing if they are ready to sign the agreement with the conditions proposed by the EU.

- Tanzania: there has been a certain cooling down and lull in the negotiation. The scenario is complicated, with two government entities that must reach an agreement on the negotiation principles. The EC set the end of October as deadline for them to decide if they are really interested in signing a tuna agreement with the EU.

- Kenya: they have had a negotiating mandate since the month of June. There is interest in negotiating a fisheries agreement, although the specific negotiation calendar has still not been specified. The Commission is waiting to receive more details.

Atlantic Ocean: Western Africa

- Morocco: a meeting of the Mixed Commission was held in Rabat last week, which was very positive. The most complicated issue is to agree upon compulsory common rules for the minimum and maximum landing percentages, and the marketing of fishing products by the European fleets. It is necessary to continue with the mechanisms of dialogue and understanding in order to facilitate the landing and sales. The EC is very satisfied with the level of execution of the agreement as well as with the reports received on the use of funds for sectoral support in the projects they support.

- Mauritania: The meeting of the Mixed Commission will be in November, when topics such as the following will be discussed: the creation of the new category for trawlers aimed at demersal species, a matter that has already been subject to analysis at the joint Scientific Committee, and which must now be determined by exactly defining target species, quantities, as well as the composition of the fleet. Infrastructures have improved, partly thanks to projects such as MACAPEL, to develop infrastructures and carry out transfers at Nouadhibou port. The EC wishes to evaluate the improvements on site and study how Las Palmas port can have more activity and foster synergies. Another outstanding issue is the sectoral support; this is an important economic item and it is necessary to examine what it will be earmarked for, as there are several projects, and it is essential to reach an agreement on the target of these funds.

- Senegal: It is highlighted that the agreement works well at fishing level (tuna, demersal, black hake) but bad in terms of sectoral support, with a lot of delays in the action plan. In addition, an experimental 2,000 ton fishery has been opened for black hake, which, according to scientific indications, is sustainable and does not endanger the stock.

- Cape Verde: This agreement is becoming increasingly important at catch level, as these have increased a great deal over the past year, above all by seiners and longliners. Both the management and the cooperation are evolving with satisfaction. The EC hopes that they will apply the VMS-ERS system before the end of this year. On the other hand, the study ordered by the Commission on the situation of sharks will conclude in April 2017. This study takes into account the importance of this commercial fishery of blue shark and shortfin mako.

- Guinea Bissau: This is a very important mixed agreement that expires in November 2017 and whose negotiations for renewal will start in February 2017. The level of use of the agreement is acceptable for tuna vessels, cephalopod and demersal species. Several meetings of the Scientific Committee on stocks have been held, highlighting the good state of the shrimp resource, but with orange and red alerts for cephalopod and demersal species. The scientific committee will continue working as the data are insufficient. The Guinean Administration promised to carry out a new management plan.

- Equatorial Guinea: This is a dormant agreement. Progress is observed in the fight against IUU fishing, so they already have the green light.



The Ministry of Fisheries is very interested in negotiating a fisheries agreement with the EU, having carried out quite a few reforms in the fisheries sector. Although the political situation is complicated, they believe that they will be able to start to negotiate in 2017.

- Gabon: The protocol has already expired, it is a dormant agreement. On a political level, with the change in minister, dialogue with the country became difficult, and diplomatic relations have cooled down lately, although there is still contact through the European External Action Service.

- Sao Tomé and Príncipe: They have just held a mixed commission meeting. It is highlighted that this agreement is becoming more and more important. The catch level has increased and the sectoral support works adequately. The issue that they must improve are the onboard inspections, improving their resources and capacity. However, at control level, they have launched the VMS system and it works adequately. They are combining the electronic system with the paper system.

- Ghana: with a view to a possible fisheries agreement, an assessment study of the feasibility of the study has been carried out, which will soon be published. It is perceived as a country with real interest in negotiating, with good port infrastructures and conditions.

- Liberia: The protocol is for 5 years, the next Mixed Commission meeting will be held in Spring 2017.

Indian Ocean

- Seychelles: This is the region's main tuna agreement. The Mixed Commission meeting will be held shortly, although no specific date has yet been set. It is highlighted that they have some delays in the sectoral support.

- Madagascar: This is the region's second tuna vessel agreement, which also includes longliners and it works correctly.

- Comoros: This is a problematic agreement. The EC has pre-identified them with the "yellow card" at risk of being identified as non-cooperative country in the fight against IUU fishing. There is a lack of control in vessels with Comoros flag. They are likely to suspend the fisheries agreement at the end of the year. However, there is constant dialogue in fisheries matters, so the EC will make an effort to help to improve the situation.

- Mozambique: This is a dormant agreement; if they express interest the EC will start up dialogue again.

North Atlantic Agreements



- Greenland: The next Mixed Commission has been set for 21 November, and the aim is to establish the exact quotas. This agreement works well and is based on scientific data. At the present time, they have abundant stocks that enjoy good health.

Round of questions from members attending:

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, highlights that the tonnage of reference principle is the minimum acceptable for each country, and that the fishing operators pay by tons. He believes that it is not always used and that if a maximum were stipulated, in the end they would pay the right of access.

About Liberia, he believes that it has been hard to reach an agreement, although the clause on inspections prior to the delivery of licences should have been drafted better. He points out that the inspections are very costly, with an average of 5000 Euros per vessel. Furthermore, the wages of the control agents were not regulated, either, with non-official tariffs and commissions, and some of them even asked for up to 15,000 Euros. Furthermore, these inspections are the same as those executed by the EU. In his opinion, the EC should issue the licences first and then pass inspections. The opinion of the French industry sector is not to carry out these inspections before presenting the licences.

With respect to Mauritania, he highlights that he about there being a compulsory landing percentage, but care must be taken with the landing control measures in order for them not to be in detriment of the operators.

On the other hand, about Comoros he indicates that it is a pity that the sectoral support is not used to develop a programme of local regional observers and that the case of European tuna vessels is an example to be followed in this regard.

The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck clarifies that the tonnage of reference that is calculated per vessel and at global level is a minimum. The EU general tonnage of reference is to reflect the productivity of the agreement and the report of the Court of Auditors observes the level of global activity in relation to the whole amount.

Regarding Liberia, he agrees, they hope that the agreement will not have to be renewed each year. With respect to the inspection conditions he indicates that they had to accept it to be able to establish the agreement. They will study the possibility of seeking a solution at regional level through the regional observers' programme.

Re- Comoros, he highlights that it works well at fishing level, they have made an effort in sectoral support, but however, the red card would act as a threat, for them to have a positive reaction, although it would be harmful for the country's reputation. He says further that the fight against IUU fishing does not depend on the Ministry of Fisheries, but on the Transport ministry.

Mr. Miguel Goujon, ORTHONGEL, asks if the start of negotiations with the Republic of Guinea has already been scheduled.



Mr. Emmanuel Berck, EC representative, responds that they are still observing the country's interest. However, there would be no problem in the tuna fleet signing private agreements now that the red card has been withdrawn.

Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, on Guinea Bissau, wishes to thank the WWF for its dialogue with the Administration; also respect to the problem with the Chinese fleet, she supports the coherent approach on demersal species.

Ms. Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, expresses her opposition to a possible tuna agreement with Equatorial Guinea due to the existing political situation and corruption in the country. She underlines her concern about the state of the resources, highlighting the cooperation agreement between a Sicilian group – of doubtful reputation – and the Guinea government to develop fishing. Although, seemingly they are not interested in sustainable fishing. In fact, she thinks that the image of the EU could be harmed there.

About the sectoral support in general, she believes that it is not efficient and highlights that a letter has been written by the LDAC requesting greater transparency in its use and that it is also advisable to look for other financing sources, organising it better. In her opinion, there are several possibilities and some thought must be given to how it can be improved. It is also necessary to study to what extent the partnership agreements collaborate with sectoral support. To give an example, on the Ivory Coast there are groups of women who require fish supplies, so it would be possible to organise a meeting with the operators with a view to landing tuna, which would lead to collaboration with the supply, food safety and the development of local economy.

The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, responds about Mauritania, that they have asked the Administration to publish other fisheries agreements with other countries for the next Mixed Commission meeting, all of this in agreement with that indicated in the Fishing Transparency Initiative (FITI).

On the other hand, he comments on the topic of the employment of sailors, highlighting that coastal states are very sensitive to this topic; in fact in some countries there are many expectations for local sailors to embark on the vessels. Sao Tomé, for example, insists a great deal on this topic. Although the EC has explained the EU problems to them, they threaten with not renewing the agreement. The fisheries operators are requested, therefore, to be flexible, giving priority to the countries with greater needs.

Regarding the supply of fish to local communities and groups of women in the Ivory Coast, he highlights that he is familiar with the activity they generate. Before the end of the year they will hold a new Mixed Commission meeting when they will discuss this issue.

Mr. Juan Pablo Rodriguez, ANABAC, congratulates the EC on all the information received as well as for the effort made by the EU to establish fisheries agreements with third countries. He points out the positive side of being able to have 14 fisheries agreements and the evolution of potential new agreements such as those of Ghana and Equatorial Guinea. About Comoros, he indicates that the situation of drastic measures for a developing county concerns him. Respect to Tanzania, he believes that they should be granted a new opportunity as there have been changes in government. He is also concerned about the bilateral relationship of these



countries with a view to defending the application of strict measures, for example, in the fight against IUU fishing.

In the RFMOs they observe that, in the multilateral context, they are not giving the gains that might be expected. He asks, in the Indian Ocean context, how it is possible that the results are not good in the multilateral context but, in contrast, they are good for bilateral agreements.

Mr. Emmanuel Berck, EC, responds that there is dichotomy between the bilateral and multilateral relations of the EU in the Indian Ocean. It is a difficult situation; he believes that they must be firm and seek support and have allies in the region, as, if not, the EC may lose ground. For example, the South-West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) is very important for tuna. He announces that a meeting will be held in Durban next week. At the meeting, the EC will act as observer.

Regarding access to fishing by the European fleet, there is concern about the evolution of the minimum access conditions protocol for fishing in SWIOFC countries, and that there could be contradictions with the CTOI rules and an impact, even, on the bilateral fisheries agreements. At the current time, the EU is analysing the proposals of these countries. Later on, they will coordinate with France, which is the permanent member of the SWIOFC. As these decisions are binding, the presence of the EC there is very important.

On the other hand, he indicates that they are aware of the importance of DG MARE developing a joint strategy with DG DEVCO for the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC-AGAC, asks why, in the bilateral agreements, DG MARE does not include issues that make it easier to involve those States in the RFMOs in each Mixed Commission meeting, with a view to getting coastal states to support proposals that are in line with the EC, for example: prohibition of transfers at sea. He believes that coherence between the EU agreements and RFMO rules must be an important part of the business to be discussed at the Mixed Commission.

Mr. Emmanuel Berck, EC, responds that there are problems of scope in the framework of the agreement meeting, restricted to bilateral agreements.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, specifies that the EC has different teams negotiating with different countries. In his opinion, the basic political lines and guidelines must be the same for all.

6- Coherence between Community Fisheries and Development Cooperation Policies.

a. Initiatives of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, introduces the topic, highlighting his concern about the drift of SWIOFC, a body created by the FAO that is extending its scope of action to tuna and tuna-like species, which in principle corresponds to the CTOI. He asks the Commission for its opinion.



The Commission representative of DG DEVCO, Ms. Isabelle Viallon, states that the EU has been active in RFMOs for a long time, they know that they are very important for the long-distance fleet, but other organisations are also important for the coastal states of regions such as the Indian Ocean, they being complementary bodies. To a certain extent there is a certain parallelism with the North Atlantic, as in NEAFC the Coastal states maintain a dialogue with the long-distance fleet. At the same time, the 28 countries of the EU are talking about harmonising technical measures within the EU. There is no problem if they want to add value and coordinate. It is also important to clarify how to work with each organisation.

For the case of SWIOFC, she is pleased to see that DG MARE will participate in SWIOFC; in fact, she believes that a fluent exchange of information is essential to find action synergies.

b. SMARTFISH Project: regional observers' programme in Indian Ocean

The EC representative, Ms. Isabelle Viallon, informs that the Smartfish project concludes at the end of 2017, so they will have to start to think about a work and monitoring plan, as well as study key organisations to involve in a possible "Smartfish 2". From the viewpoint of DG DEVCO, they must assess the work with each organisation. It is not an easy exercise, but it is necessary.

With respect to the Pacific, she specifies that a greater bilateral dialogue must be held with Coastal states, not only for fisheries agreements but also about market, health and development cooperation matters, among other aspects.

She indicates that she was not aware of the Durban meeting; however, she highlights that in the next few months they will work on cooperation in the Indian Ocean in the future, as well as in regional communities such as SADEC, COMESA, IOC, in Eastern Africa.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, explains why they want these points to be included in the agenda. It is because there was a meeting in the Seychelles to implement the regional observers' programme, as they were not allowed to attend the Smartfish meetings. He does not understand why there cannot be cooperation in the Pacific, as we have, for example, with COMHAFAT. He highlights that the LDAC could contribute greatly to Smartfish, for example, developing the minimum access conditions to the tuna-like species fisheries, and he does not understand how it is possible that, in a project financed by the EU, they are not even invited to attend meetings.

The EC representative, Ms. Isabelle Viallon, indicates that in her opinion it is important for the industry affected to be able to attend this type of meetings. However, she clarifies that the coastal states are the ones that decide who can attend, and she regrets that they do not understand the importance of the European fleet being present.

c. Work of ECOWAS-UA/IBAR on MSC/IUU in the Gulf of Guinea

Ms. Isabelle Viallon, EC, on Western Africa, indicates that fishing is considered as a regional matter. She highlights that they want to cooperate in the Gulf of Guinea although it is not an



easy process. They are currently identifying what they have to do. The idea is to start to discuss regional cooperation on a political level.

She highlights the fruitful collaboration between DG DEVCO, DG MARE and the EFCA regarding solving problems related to the fight against IUU fishing, in collaboration with subregional fishing organisations in the area. The idea is to get to know the problems faced by coastal countries, identify them and work with joint institutional support. It is a new approach that will be further developed in 2017 with a budding project.

Another component is that it is based on resource sustainability. Proposals must be specified, in fact, they wish to finance three or four pilot projects in order to carry out a management plan for the region's two or three most important species. They need to work with ECOWAS and the African Union due to their institutional coverage as interlocutors at regional and political level. Furthermore, they are in frequent contact with the World Bank.

Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, asks about the pilot projects. Although she believes that they are a very good idea, she highlights that, in that area of Africa, it is essential to focus on small pelagics such as sardinella. However, she sees little progress at a political level. With respect to fishing capacity, she considers that a discussion with the ACP countries is essential. A platform of dialogue around the SFPAs could be created. She thinks it is very important to improve transparency and inform about the impact of the Chinese fleet's activities in the region.

7- EU strategy to improve international governance in fishing management: Participation in RFMOs.

The Director of Unit B of DG MARE and EC representative, Mr. Stefan Depypere, underlines the importance of the LDAC for the Commission in this issue as a representative body of the long-distance fleet that operates in international and third-country waters. The EU wishes to have better governance, and to this end, an inclusion process is required in which all Member States and actors of the EU unconditionally support this initiative, being fully aware of the importance of good international governance. He recalls that the EU has been a leader or reference in this field for other world actors whose policies or scope of application have varied more, such as USA, Japan, China or Canada.

He highlights the importance of the work of international organisations such as the FAO, the RFMOs and the sustainable fisheries partnership agreements with third countries (SFPAs), as well as the European strategy to fight against IUU fishing, highlighting the cooperation and dialogue with third countries as an essential tool to achieve specific objectives.

In the commercial policy area, he highlights the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO, which is very ambitious, with a negotiating group to define common rules about issues such as subsidies to fisheries or competition and anti-dumping policies. Negotiations are ongoing and will continue in Geneva, with a preferential approach for developing countries.

Other issues will also be discussed, such as the non-increase of the world fisheries capacity and the recognition of the legitimacy of third countries to develop their fishing with conditions that indicate the capacity to fish in their EEZ, zones, vessels, etc.



Within the EU, it is necessary for all countries and community institutions to be convinced that international governance is a good idea and must be strengthened. Countries such as USA, Canada, Japan, China, Brazil and Africa have also committed. The basic ideas include improvement of the management and monitoring of the seas at a global level, together with the debate about crime linked to IUU fishing for illegal activities.

The Commission hopes to publish a Communication in mid-November about the Governance of the Seas and Oceans, including an action or work plan. Likewise, the EU will be host to the "Our Oceans" Conference in Malta, following those already held in Washington and Chile.

It is highlighted that the internal structure of DG MARE has been modified giving greater relevance and weight to the Governance and to the External Dimension of the CPF. The work of the European External Action Service (EEAS) is also highlighted in terms of attendance and preparation of the RFMOs and coordination with personnel from DG DEVCO in the application of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), and of the fisheries agreement with third countries, in order to achieve greater coherence in the financial cooperation with those countries.

The Chairperson thanks Mr. Depypere for his presentation and opens up the round of questions:

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGC, asks about coherence in governance, highlighting that greater cooperation and coordination of DG MARE with DG DEVCO and DG TRADE have always been requested. However, now that DG MARE is going to change its structure, he is concerned that the staff reduction of the EC may have a negative influence on governance.

Mr. Björn Stockhausen, Seas at Risk, agrees with the comments made by Mr. Moron. In fact, he indicates the importance of the fact that difficulties are often encountered to reach agreements in the RFMOs, for example, in NEAFC with the assignment criteria. He asks if the EC is going to continue leading critical decisions and requesting studies about its functioning.

The EC representative, Mr. Stefan Depypere, responds that, regarding DG MARE personnel, he is aware of the importance of having sufficient staff. However, he is convinced that the key lies in productivity, so they will try to avoid overlapping personnel's tasks, improving internal organisation and coordination.

With respect to NEAFC, he indicates that the evaluation study on its functioning is very important as an example of good governance and that he is aware that this type of studies are very important to evaluate the functioning of the RFMOs, having also carried it out for ICCAT. Regarding the NEAFC assignment criteria, this is a complicated matter that will require a lot of time.

Mr. Björn Stockhausen, Seas at Risk, states further that the reference terms were agreed to carry out the evaluation study on compliance with NEAFC but there are still some deficient compliance aspects such as arbitration. He believes that the EU must look for allies.



Mr. Raul Garcia, WWF, thanks Mr. Depypere for his presentation. He highlights that topics such as illegal fishing are becoming more important in international discussions, but he believes that illegal fishing is a fault of governance per se. The EC has a robust approach to this topic but other market countries such as USA do not have the same ambition, it being one of the few powers that are sure about how vital good governance is for fisheries. In his opinion, it is a policy that affects several DGs. He believes that it is very important for the LDAC to have a joint calendar with the EU to coordinate agendas and events.

Mr. Garcia highlights that the LDAC has strengths and tools that can be used to raise awareness and disseminate the importance of good governance among the stakeholders of the CPF and the public in general.

Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, underlines her concern about the work of the Commission and the need for coordination between governance of the seas and blue growth. It is necessary to keep fisheries as one of the priorities in these policies and not only take into consideration other uses of the sea or economic activities such as oil or gas exploitations, for example.

The EC representative, Mr. Stefan Depypere responds that they hope to be able to mobilise all the resources they have in fact, for certain topics they hope to count on LDAC. He highlights the “Our Oceans” Conference that will be held in the month of October in Malta, requesting ideas and specific commitments to include in the programme.

Regarding the coordination between ocean governance and blue growth, in his opinion, he thinks that there is some competitive concurrence with respect to objectives. The importance of the fisheries issues in blue growth varies according to the regions or maritime zones. In the Arctic, for example, they are mainly concerned about transport and oil exploitations. In certain areas, tackling the fisheries activity is a challenge.

Mr. Juan Manuel Trujillo, IGF, highlights that, although he agrees with the arguments set out until now, he is very concerned about decent work, insofar as abuses of the workers’ rights are usually connected to illegal fishing. He believes it is very positive to work more with the European Parliament and Commission to mitigate the harmful effects on the environment, the economy, and labour and social rights. He thinks that the EC must take advantage of the participation in international organisations to have an influence on labour rights policies in the rest of the world. He requests the decisions of the LDAC to be taken into greater consideration as well as the minimum requirements set by the IMO and the ILO, among others.

The EC representative, Mr. Stefan Depypere coincides in that respecting workers’ rights is very important. The SFPAs will continue working on this issue, introducing specific clauses that include immigration topics. In fact, he thinks that the development of third countries will contribute to creating employment and to getting the population to establish roots.

Mr. Julio Moron, OPAGAC, asks about the degree and type of collaboration requested by the Commission from the LDAC, informing that we have ongoing initiatives such as, for example, the cooperation with COMHAFAT, the regional observers’ programme for tuna-like species fisheries and the inspection programme at ports in countries of the African Atlantic façade. Everything in order to help in matters such as the right against illegal fishing or the effective application of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to countries of the COMHAFAT, acting as a reference and as an important vehicle to materialise the collaboration. He also comments that they wish to do the same in the Indian Ocean, but with projects such as



Smartfish there is reticence, insofar as the project coordinators have not been allowed to attend the meetings of a project financed by the EU. On the other hand, he thinks that the LDAC can present specific initiatives for the “Our Oceans” conference in October in Malta.

The EC representative, Mr. Stefan Depypere comments that they are happy with the work of COMHAFAT and he encourages them to test the possibility of collaborating with DG DEVCO that has funding to fight against IUU fishing. He indicates that, in this regard, a pilot project of DG DEVCO will be carried out in summer in the Gulf of Guinea, in collaboration with the CRSP and the EFCA with a joint inspection campaign at sea. He highlights that the Indian Ocean must make a great effort, as it is a complicated area to work.

Mr. Michel Goujon, ORHONGEL, highlights that it is essential to foster greater control, but that this must be done in agreement with international regulations that guarantee safety and do not permit unjustified returns to port. He also believes it is essential for the fisheries management to remain under the control of the RFMOs and for it not to fall on other international organisations.

The EC representative, Mr. Stefan Depypere, understands the concerns about legal security and equalitarian application of the control standards, considering it essential to notify the EC of any type of incident that might occur. He agrees that there must be very specific and concrete standards, watching over all aspects. Finally, he agrees about remaining alert and avoiding contradictory or selective approaches of fisheries management standards by international organisations such as the UN with the BBNJ process, stating there should not be interference with the standards and processes of the RFMOs.

Action:

The LDAC will provide ideas and contributions both for the Commission Communication on International Governance of Seas and Oceans (publication foreseen for the end of November) and for the Our Oceans Conference to be held in Malta in October 2017.

8- Collaboration between LDAC and ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT: Work Plan.

a. Monitoring Seminar Recommendations on SFPAs (Al Jadida, 2-3 June)

Alexandre informs about the Seminar that was held in Al Jadida in summer on EU sustainable fisheries agreements with African countries from the COMHAFAT zone. He indicates that they will continue working with COMHAFAT to develop common work priorities based on the stipulations given in the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between both organisations with joint actions in terms of fight against IUU fishing, applications of the PSMA, use of sectoral support and improvement of transparency of the fisheries agreements, or participation in RFMOs. He recalls that this year DG MARE financed two COMHAFAT seminars with very positive results and they hope that the EU commitment will continue in the future.

In addition, he announces that COMHAFAT’s feasibility study to start up a regional observers’ programme at sea will be presented at the end of the year. It is foreseen that the content of this programme will be announced at the annual coordination meeting between LDAC and



COMHAFAT that is proposed to be held at the beginning of 2017 at EFCA headquarters in Vigo. Representatives from the actual EFCA, DG MARE and DG DEVCO will be invited.

b. Calendar of COMHAFAT meetings

Action:

An annual coordination meeting will be called between the LDAC and ATLAFCO-CMHAFAT at the beginning of 2017 in Vigo to jointly monitor the execution of the actions agreed during the seminars organised by ATLAFCO and financed by the EU, as well as to identify common priority work areas and reconcile meetings and agendas. The possibility of associating it with initiatives such as seminars on IUU Fishing or presentations before relevant European agencies or institutions (EFCA, DG DEVCO,...) will be contemplated.

c. Coordination Actions between the EU and COMHAFAT

Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, suggests creating a working group between the EU and COMHAFAT, for this organisation to focus on specific EC projects.

Ms. Gunilla Greig, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, informs that Sweden wishes to work on the development and cooperation of the regional strategy of Sub-Saharan Africa. She also informs about a study on gender equality in the SFPAs, saying that she will be able to provide us with more information at future meetings.

9- Other business.

Ms. Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, asks if an external long-distance fleet will be included in the study requested by the EC on beneficial ownership of fishing vessels by companies and shipowners.

The EC representative, Mr. Emmanuel Berck, answers affirmatively, indicating that the study is likely to begin in January and end in 2017. As soon as there are results there will be an official communication.

10- Date and place of next meeting of WG4.

It is agreed to hold the next meeting in Brussels in March or April. The Secretariat will inform of the most convenient dates for all.

The meeting is adjourned at 1.15 pm.



ANNEX I
LIST OF THOSE ATTENDING WORKIN GROUP 4
Brussels, 25 October 2016

MEMBERS

1. Julio Morón.OPAGAC
2. Erik Olsen.Living Sea
3. Sandra Sanmartin.EBCD
4. Juan Manuel Trujillo.ETF
5. Beatrice Gorez.CFFA-CAPE
6. Rocío Suárez.EBCD
7. Raúl García.WWF
8. Katarina Sipic.CONXEMAR
9. Irene Vidal .EJF
10. Juan Pablo Rodríguez.ANABAC
11. Edelmiro Ulloa Anapa / Anamer / Acemix / Agarba
12. Mercedes Rodríguez. OPP-Lugo
13. Marta Llopis.CONXEMAR
14. Raúl García. WWF
15. Mireille Thon.WWF
16. Björn Stockhausen.Seas at Risk
17. Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL

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