

Madrid, 24 March 2017

Attn. Mr. Aubrey Harris
Secretary-General, South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
Maputo - Mozambique

Subject: Protocol for minimum terms and conditions (MTCs) for foreign fisheries access in the waters of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) region.

Dear Secretary-General of SWIOFC,

I am writing on behalf of the EU Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC), an EU stakeholder advisory body representing both EU fishing operators and NGOs with interest in the South Western Indian Ocean.

A delegation of the LDAC composed of several European Union industry (ORTHONGEL, OPAGAC/AGAC and ANABAC) and NGOs (CFFA-CAPE) representatives participated on 16 March at a consultative meeting with stakeholders in Seychelles, facilitated by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

The objective of the meeting was to deliberate on the proposed 24 articles of the MTC protocol defined by the SWIOFC member states and provide input and comments from the different industry and other interest groups representatives.

Please find enclosed the LDAC specific input including some important comments in relation to MTCs now that the SWIOFC embark on its final discussion stage. The LDAC is also supportive of the general recommendations agreed by the plenary of the meeting that were coordinated through IOC.

We trust you find our contribution useful and take them into consideration at the forthcoming SWIOFC meeting to be held on the 28th to 31st March 2017.

The LDAC would also like to take this opportunity to request to become a registered observer of SWIOFC in order to participate at meetings and find synergies for future work collaboration. We hope you take this request into consideration and provide us with any necessary information for a formal application.

Yours sincerely,



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Alexandre Rodriguez
LDAC Executive Secretary

CC: Mr. Hosea Gonza - Chairman SWIOFC working party on tuna collaboration and cooperation
Mr. Erudito Malate - Chairman of the MTC task force
EEAS - EU Delegation in Rome to UN FAO
Mr Stefaan Depypere, Christian Rambaud and Anders Jessen – DG MARE, European Commission
Mr Jude Talma - IOC MTC Coordinator Expert

Information note about the LDAC.

The Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council (LDAC) is an EU fisheries stakeholder body co-funded by the European Commission and recognized by the CFP Regulation (UE) No 1380/2013 as an organization aiming a European Interest. It was established in 2004 by virtue of the Council Decision (EC) No 585/2004, and became operational in May 2007.

Our mission is to provide advice to the European Institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) and EU Member States on matters related to Fisheries Agreements with Third Countries, relations with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in which the EU is a contracting party, or with international organizations in whose waters the EC Fleet operates, as well as trade policy and international market for fish products.

Our main goal is to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fishing resources. More specifically, our key areas of work are:

- 1) Fighting against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, including the improvement of coordination of MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) systems. The LDAC is actively engaged with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on this topic.
- 2) Promoting the external dimension of the CFP and coordination with other EU policies, particularly for environment, development for cooperation and trade. The LDAC has signed a MoU with COMHAFAT (the Ministerial Conference of African Coastal States in the Atlantic Ocean) to enhance capacity building in West Africa, fostering good practices at a regional level.
- 3) Improving transparency and governance in decision making in fisheries management, for instance through the Tuna Transparency Initiative (TTI) in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

The LDAC is currently made up by fishing sector organisations (including catching, processing and marketing sectors, and trade unions), and other groups of interest (environmental NGOs, consumers and civil society). Its composition is 60:40 and currently has more than 50 members from 12EU coastal Member States.

In terms of business, it is necessary to take into account the strategic weight of the European long distance fleet. According to STECF Annual Economic Report from 2013, the EU long distance fleet represents around 24% of total catches in the EU (1,067 million tons in 2011), 19% of the whole tonnage (GT), and 7% of fishing capacity.

More information on our work and membership is available at the LDAC Web: www.ldac.eu

We are also present in social network with an active Twitter account: [@LDAC_eu](https://twitter.com/LDAC_eu)