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Rome, 21st July 2015

Karmenu Vella European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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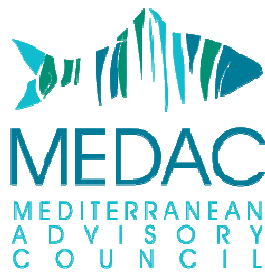
Jos  Miguel Corvinos Lafuente Director General Fisheries Resources and Aquaculture, Spain

Re: The State of Fisheries in the Mediterranean

The recent EC Seminar on the "State of Fish Stocks and the Economic Performance of Fishing Fleets", held on 14th July in Brussels, described the current situation in extremely serious terms. The precarious conditions portrayed are even more worrying if we consider the efforts made to date by the Member States, with the reduction of their fleets, and by the European institutions through a specific regulation on technical management measures for the Mediterranean, which have clearly not produced the expected results. The MEDAC has already taken steps to raise awareness among its members, so that due attention is paid to this situation in order to start discussion in all the Member States.

The recent CFP Reform has provided new management tools, particular reference is made to the multi-annual management plans and the specific discards management plans, which are undoubtedly a new opportunity in the development of more effective models.





The data resulting from research, however, raise the question of whether the time currently required for procedural and legislative change is compatible with the urgency of the above-mentioned situation. It would appear to be appropriate and indeed necessary to consider making an exceptional effort for the Mediterranean, involving all the institutions and naturally all the stakeholders. Implementing more accurate and up-to-date scientific data on the state of stocks (not neglecting other sources of impact), would make it possible to define management measures, models and procedures, including *ad hoc* actions, that can and must be established in order to reverse the trend definitively, thus steering the sector towards full sustainability.

In this framework, the MEDAC is fully prepared to act as an intermediary between the institutions and stakeholders, offering proactive coordination; to get the work under way a specific workshop on the Mediterranean has been proposed, for which the European Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, has already confirmed his availability. This meeting will be held as soon as possible in order to take stock of the situation and assess possible scenarios.

I therefore call on all addressees to support this initiative, each playing an active part according to the respective institutional roles, in the hope that we can together achieve a solution.

In the certainty that you will be sensitive to this delicate situation, please accept assurance of my highest consideration.

Giampaolo Buonfiglio
Chair

Copies to: Lowri Evans Director General DG MARE, Ernesto Bianchi, DG MARE, Fabrizio Donatella, DG MARE

