MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ref.:121/2017

Rome, 11 April 2017

Elisa Roller
Head of Unit D3
CFP and Structural Support,
Policy Development and Coordination
DG MARE

Subject: Applications for membership-approval by the Member States

Dear Ms Roller,

Referring to your letter ref. Ares(2017)1524897 of March 21 we thank you for your clarifications on the interpretation of the CFP Reform Regulation. The annex III letter h of the CFP Regulation states that: "*European and national organisations representing the fisheries sector and other interest groups may propose members to the Member States concerned.* ***Those Member States shall agree on the members of the general assembly.***" So, the interpretation done until now is that it is up to the MS concerned decide if the association "X" can become a member or not of the AC.

We kindly remind you that last year, during the adoption of the Internal rules, we modified them in order to comply with the CFP Reform, and the related rules state: "*1.3 The Member State in question shall reply to the consultation request within 30 calendar days. 1.4 The Secretariat requests the Members State to give its opinion on the applicant's representativeness. Under no circumstances the lack of reply should be considered as a negative response*." During the last GA meeting the members decided to modify the rule 1.4 adding the word "or positive", at the end of the sentence.

Please be informed that the Secretariat of the MEDAC sent several reminder letters to the Members State concerned, such as to the Italian Administration in relation to some applications for membership. On this delicate issue we kindly ask your collaboration in order to raise awareness of the MS concerned.

Henceforth the MEDAC will continue to follow the Basic Regulation provisions considering that the introduction of the silence by consent rule could constitute a derogation to the Basic regulation and to the MEDAC internal rules. If necessary the MEDAC will modify the Internal Rules during the next General Assembly meeting that will be held on February 2018.

Kind regards,

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