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MEDAC advice to avoid Libyan transhipments

The FG on Eastern Mediterranean and the FG on Strait of Sicily met online on February 23. The update on scientific information related to the upcoming management measures to be agreed at the GFCM level in the Strait of Sicily was provided to the participants. Furthermore, the knowledge on the social aspects of the current GFCM pilot studies and the progress on forthcoming MAPs in the area were explained to provide a comprehensive overview.

During the meeting the issue related to the illegal Libyan transhipments at sea was raised up also considering the consequences detrimental for a sustainable fishery and conservation of the stocks in the Mediterranean Sea.

In order to avoid this IUU activity, the MEDAC deemed necessary that the existing EU regulations on "*the products export*[1]*, providing the List of third countries or regions thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain fishery products*" include Libya.
In fact, the impossibility of exporting Libyan products from Libya to the EU is the main reason for a non-regularization of this activity and then huge quantities of fish resources of this country are exported illegally.

Therefore, the MEDAC asks the EU to take steps to ensure that Libya submits an application to be included in the list of the countries authorised for entry into the Union their fishery products to fight against illegality.

[1] COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2021/405 of 24 March 2021 laying down the lists of third countries or regions thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council

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