MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ref.: 104/2017

Rome, 15th March 2017

Elisa Roller
CFP and Structural Support, Policy Development and Coordination
DG MARE

CC Evangelia Georgitsi

Subject: Request for modifications in the accounting of interpretation and translation costs – Item E in the Advisory Council financial budget

Dear Ms Roller,

The MEDAC General Assembly met in Rome on 22nd February and has put forward some considerations regarding the method of funding allocation to the Advisory Councils.
The final report of the annual activities explained by the Secretariat has shown the enhancement of MEDAC involvement and cooperation within a variety of institutions involved in fishery management and research. The regularity and the large participation to the Working Groups and Focus Groups meetings registered over the last few years contributed to the adoption of fruitful and important agreements and recommendations that showed the efforts that all participants have made to find a shared opinion on relevant matters related to fisheries management. The possibility to have access to the documents and participate in the discussion in the most relevant official languages of the EU Mediterranean States improved the quality and participation to the discussion, but compromised the financial allocation of funding for translation and interpretation.
The EU Mediterranean States are a very heterogeneous reality compared to other Advisory Councils and the working languages are 8 in total. Therefore, the most significant costs in the MEDAC's budget are addressed to ensure members' participation and, consequently interpretation and translation activities (counting for approximately 50% of expenditures).
Participation and meeting opportunities have to be kept at a very low level to ensure that budget constraints are respected to cover for the large amount of expenditures for translation, thus affecting the number of meetings and events scheduled each year.
The General Assembly deemed necessary to ask for a modification in the terms of funding, allowing additional funding for interpretation and translation costs that should be accounted separately in the annual budget of those Advisory Councils that have to deal with more than 4 working languages. This will guarantee equal opportunities among the various ACs and will enhance more participation and discussion contributing with better results to the work of the European Commission.
The General Assembly really hopes that future steps will be taken by the European Commission on this matter to improve the overall work of each Advisory Council.

Best regards,

Rosa Caggiano
Executive Secretary

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