MEDAC - Registered Office Via XX Settembre, 20 - c/o MIPAAF - 00187 Rome (Italy) - Tax identification number 97534810581 - Association registered with the Prefecture of Rome as a legal entity n.1224/2017

Ref.: 108/2021

Rome, 14th May 2021

European Commission
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea (MARE.D)
Lena Andersson Pench

Offic- Rue Joseph II
J99-
B-1000 Brussels

c.c: Valerie Tankink
Pascale Colson

Subject: *MEDAC Operating Grant – Specific Agreement 2021*

Dear Ms. Andersson Pench,

As you know, our AC is facing several problems due to the postponing of the signature of the Annual Specific Agreement for the year 2021.

As we said also during our last InterAC meeting held on 5th May, MEDAC has already started the budgetary year in January 2021 but your services told us that we won't receive any advance payment before the entry into force of the new EMFAF, which is expected to occur in July 2021. This means that all our activities provided for in the 2021 work plan and all running costs should be covered by other resources, which are the membership fees (30.100 €) and Member States and Regional Administrations contributions (48.000 €).

Considering that our provisional total budget for this year is 456.639, 79 €, we are actually going through an economic and financial situation we have never faced before, having at our disposal less than 1/5 of our total eligible budget.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that this delay in the procedure regarding the EMFAF and consequently in the signature of the Specific Agreement for the MEDAC Annual operating Grant 2021, has been communicated to our Secretariat only at the beginning of 2021 and it was impossible, once the year started, to find out possible solutions to tackle this problem.

We know that your services are working hard and that it is not an issue concerning your internal procedures, but we are wondering if your services could find a way to support us help us during this

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transition period (f.i. using unspent funds of the EMFF etc.) in order to guarantee the correct development of our planned activities, which have been carried out till now with no delay.

Moreover, the year 2021 is the last year of the Framework Partnership Agreement signed for the period 2018-2021 and it may be useful for your legal services to explore the chance to use EMFF funds for this transition period under this FPA.

We know that you will understand our concerns and that you will take into careful consideration our request.

Should you need further clarification, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Secretary
Rosa Caggiano

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