MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Subject. **"MEDAC CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION – EVALUATION OF THE FISHERIES CONTROL REGULATION ON THE CFP"**

Following the request of DG MARE during the Workshop on evaluation of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 on Fisheries Control, held in Brussels on 18th March 2016 and the nature of the questions in the consultation, MEDAC deemed necessary to reply only to the two last questions, as already pointed out by the Executive Secretary, R. Caggiano, during the workshop.

On the basis of the RACMED Advice (Ref. 48/AV 22 February 2011) in which was asked to the EC and to the Council to re-examine the measure for the purpose of maximum simplification and full applicability of the provisions, and the contributions received by MEDAC members, please find here below the MEDAC contribution, approved by the Executive Committee members by written procedure.

Question 37: In your opinion, what are the main weaknesses of the fisheries control regime?

MEDAC believes that:

- too many obligations and difficult compilation of logbooks and other bureaucratic burdens related to traceability.
- the increase of charges and costs for the surveillance activity.
- the duplication of duties coupling the AIS with the satellite control system with an increase of financial burdens for the enterprises, and a surveillance and inspection system which would damage the right of confidentiality, domicile, private and personal life.
- lack of vocational training on the regulation and its implementation to fishermen.
- positive discrimination of 'small scale fisheries' is detrimental to other sectors, recreational fisheries (RF) in particular, when the two sectors fish for the same species and/or the same waters;

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Overall, the lack of enforcement and implementation of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 in a transversal way among all EU MSs and having MSs implementing the objectives of the regulation at different levels and ways has led to disparities in the enforcement at EU level as a whole.

Question 38: In your opinion, how could the identified weaknesses be addressed?

In order to address the weaknesses identified in the Control Regulation, MEDAC suggests to:

- Improve and encourage the exchange of information and experiences on control implementation between MS and operators;
- Harmonize and simplify the electronic tools (AIS, VMS, ERS, etc.);
- Review the penalty system in order to focalize it on serious infractions and non fulfilment and implementing a harmonized and homogeneous system of sanctions;
- Regulate the access of the use of the AIS data in order to better guarantee the right to confidentiality;
- Encourage a more regionalized approach with the bottom-up consultation procedure to achieve greater compliance;
- Make a distinction in the control activities between the various type of recreational fisheries segments.

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