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

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MEDAC contribution
A new model of Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs)

1. **Do you agree with the introduction of mandatory measures in the SCIPs for the application of CCTV technology across all MS and to specific fishing fleets, on a regional basis, according to harmonised risk management?**

All[1] the members of the MEDAC are against the introduction of mandatory measures, as it would certainly cause an increase in costs for companies to control measures already perceived by operators as ineffective, uneconomical and generally difficult to apply, given the characteristics of the Mediterranean multi-species fisheries. It is not possible to establish these measures that are not taking into account the existing costs not only related to investment, but also to the maintenance of another control system. In addition there are other problems, such as those related to the law on the privacy of personal data, the safety of navigation and activities on board.

2. **What criteria should be used to determine the fisheries/fleet segments/vessels subject to control through CCTV? Should there be a threshold in fishing vessel's length?**

Given that MEDAC does not agree with the first question, MEDAC believes that any eventual introduction of CCTV on board of the fishing vessels should be based on a previous study that should consider some criteria. The criteria used should take into account the dimensional[2] and constructive characteristics of the boats: therefore a differentiation should be done by fishing gear; fishing zone; fishing more than 24 hours; LOA and target species. In any case, the installation of CCTV should not take place automatically but only as a result of repeated unlawful conduct (serious infringements) within the IUU and Control Regulations, as a further deterrent measure.

3. **What do you believe will be the greatest technical and legal challenges and what do you think can be the solutions? (e.g. Installation and maintenance costs. Data access and exchange by flag and coastal state competent authorities. Technical specifications, implementing protocols. Privacy and data protection laws,…).**

As already mentioned, MEDAC considers that the burden of controls must not be transferred to fishing companies, but must remain the responsibility of the competent Authority: this is one of the great limitations of the CCTV hypothesis on board. Moreover, the aspect of the CCTV should not be forgotten either protection of privacy that is increasingly "defending" in the same EU context.
MEDAC reitarates that the socioeconomic impact of any measue should be taken into account, so an installation of this type must assume a zero cost both for its acquisition, start-up and

[1] EAA agrees with the introduction of mandatory measures.
[2] EAA states that to be effective CCTV should be installed on all commercial fishing vessels no matter the length.

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maintenance. Likewise, it must be a system that can be accessed not only by administrations but also by shipowners.
MEDAC supports an extract of the report of the rapporteur Isabelle Thomas "How to make fisheries controls in Europe uniform" (2015/2093(INI))), stating that is "to rework the chaotic legal system imposed on fishing and the unjustifiable overlapping of regulations and public administrations acting in an uncoordinated way, carrying out an attack against elementary principles of the Community order when establishing, de facto, differences of treatment between EU citizens."
Finally MEDAC considers that the start-up and running cost could be funded by EMFF, which is underused. The greatest challenge may be to allow for collection, storage and sharing of data at EU level. Transparency is very important for control purposes but also as a deterrent. A common database should be handled at EU level with access for Member States, scientists and stakeholders, without violating EU privacy and data protection laws.

4. Do you believe the use of some kind of incentives can be positive to start the process?

MEDAC[3] underlines again that the cost of control can not burden companies, so it is a fundamental condition that in the case of the introduction of CCTV on board there will be funding to comply with the obligation, as well as for the future functioning of the system, avoiding what happened for the VMS control for which the cost of traffic is paid by the companies. Moreover, it is the case to stress that the typology of a large fleet, especially in the Mediterranean, makes it technically impossible to install this type of system, with or without incentives of any kind. Finally, MEDAC stresses the need to commission a study and and analysis about the socioeconomical situation of the Fishery Coastal Sector.

[3] EAA considers that if the Mediterranean fisheries management system will be changed to a TAC and Quota system, as suggested by the Commission, then additional quotas could be offered those who install CCTV, and viceversa less quota to those without CCTV.