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MEDAC advice on equal opportunities in the fishery sector

Considering what emerged during the meetings held so far of the FG on equal opportunities and in particular:

- all the data available about the EU fishery sector related to gender equality;
- the MEDAC contribution on the RPOA of SSF on gender balance (Ref. 109/2019 LINK);
- that women play a key role in fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea and they are present throughout the entire fisheries value chain from catching to landing from processing to selling operations;
- that women's work is still underestimated and rarely officially recognized and still poorly supported;
- that women's involvement in the decision-making process and management is essential to reach a balanced and equal governance;
- the need to facilitate women's employment by introducing new technologies and better facilities, such as good hygienic and sanitary services and dedicated infrastructures on board and on land throughout financial specific measures.

The MEDAC acknowledges the EU work in gender equality over the last decades, such as integrating the gender perspective into all the policies, taking measures for the advancement of women and improving equal treatment legislations, however MEDAC considers it necessary in order to cover the gender gaps:

- the implementation and the harmonisation of the data collection on the gender equality in fisheries value chain as a basis of the forthcoming policies at the EU level, including the information on assisting workers (unpaid labour) taking into account that the EU DCF started to include the socio-economic data only in 2019;

- the promotion of ad-hoc training courses for women to encourage the gain of professional qualifications and to facilitate the generational turnover throughout the whole value chain, including information on the available EU financial funds and on the amount allocated by each MS to women;

- to enhance the attractiveness of the fishery sector for women through better and non-discriminatory salary, better working conditions, social security and safety at work policies.

Disclaimer - This advice reflects only the MEDAC's view and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information that it contains

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