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

Ref.:339/2018 Rome, 21 December 2018

MEDAC Opinion
Revision of the Control Regulation

Given that

- during the WG1 meeting session held on 11th October in Rome, reading commenced of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1005/2008, and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control [COM(2018)368)
- on that occasion the more relevant aspects of the proposal were illustrated with particular reference to the issues of interest to the members and the subsequent exchange of opinions revealed the need to elaborate further on the text, in order to be in a position to formulate an opinion in a future special session of WG1.
- in order to simplify the work and to summarise the most relevant aspects, the Secretariat, with the support of the coordinator, prepared an ad hoc questionnaire which was submitted to all the members with a request for feedback, article by article, where possible providing reasons for the observations made - by the end of November 2018;
- this questionnaire was drafted using different colours to highlight the different addressees of the requirements: the vessel's captain, Member States, delegated acts and EC implementing acts) with a view to facilitating its compilation given the substantial length of the overall text;
- during the month of November, the Secretariat received numerous contributions in response to the questionnaire, which emphasised the level of interest in the issue.

It was noted during the WG1 ad hoc meeting held on 10th December 2018 that:

- the contributions received by the Secretariat were highly heterogeneous and it would therefore neither veracious nor appropriate to disperse the different points of view expressed by the members in the attempt to reach compromises, which in some cases would probably be unattainable;
- on many of the issues dealt with, there was a distinct lack of uniformity of opinion, not only between the fisheries representatives (60%) and the representatives of other interest groups (40%), but also within each of these segments;
- standardised implementation throughout the Mediterranean basin is desirable, allowing however for the characteristic features of the fisheries to be recognised as appropriate, both in terms of marine resources and of the kind of fleet operating there.

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The MEDAC, with regard to the Commission's proposal COM (2018) 468:

- Considers it appropriate to highlight, article by article, the opinion of the all members who replied to the questionnaire by means of a specially designed chart, moreover the individual positions expressed are also attached in full, in addition to the summary provided in the full questionnaire;

- The need to make the most of all the opportunities offered by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, both present and future, was emphasised, with the aim of supporting the fisheries sector in the challenges that arise from the application of the common fisheries policy and its effective control. Particular reference was made, by way of example, to assistance in equipping vessels with the necessary control devices, in ensuring that they are operated appropriately and in training activities to ensure informed and proper use of such equipment;

- Agrees to ensure that any new compliance requirements, mainly concerning vessels of smaller dimensions, that are necessary to achieve the objectives of the common fisheries policy fully, do not lead to financial and/or administrative burdens, both in their installation and maintenance, for companies and workers, while also achieving the goal of simplification;

- Acknowledges that, where the individual aspects brought to the attention of WG1 are concerned, although it is not possible to prepare a joint opinion due to the large number of aspects analysed, the attached questionnaire and the related charts with the individual positions, provide some useful prompts for the legislative process the proposal is going through.

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