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Rome, 20 February 2019

To the Mediterranean EU Member States

RE: Ratification of the C188 ILO Convention

In 2007, the vote of all EU Member States contributed to the adoption of the ILO Convention C188, the goal of which was to ensure adequate working and living conditions for fishers on board their vessels and to improve safety at sea for life and property while carrying out fishery activities.

At that time, the Member States agreed that the Convention would significantly improve the working conditions of fishers and would provide a modern, accessible social tool for the fisheries sector at global level.

The MEDAC recognizes, however, that the full value of the Convention will only be achieved when it comes into force and that EU Member States have an important role to play in this context with regard to the threshold criteria for ratification by 10 Member States, 8 of which must be coastal states.

In the light of this, the MEDAC strongly recommends that the Member States ratify the Convention as foreseen in the EU Directive 159/2017 where the MS have to implement it by November 15, 2019 and engage in processes towards achieving this goal as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Giampaolo Buonfiglio
Chair

info@med-ac.eu
+39 06.46.65.21.12 T
+39 06.60.51.32.59 F

med-ac.eu
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Roma (Italy)

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