

The Long Distance Regional Advisory Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MADRID, SPAIN

30 May 2007

1. The Agenda is approved.

The organizations who are members of the Executive Committee (here in after EC) are requested to send a letter with all their relevant data as well as the name and contact details of the person who is going to represent them in the EC (as required by the Spanish Register). After which it is requested that a presentation of their respective organizations be made by each representative.

2. Administrative matters and meeting reports:

J.M Liria informs of the need to have financial resources to be able to sign the lease contract, make the reconditioning works to the main office, take care of staff costs, etc.

The experience in all RACs shows that this poses a serious operational problem, especially due to the bureaucratic difficulties of collecting administration fees. Members are therefore urged to promptly pay the respective contributions approved by the General Assembly.

Javier Garat explains the current situation of the Secretariat. Several CVs have been received and an answer is expected from some of the candidates selected, once they have made the necessary arrangements regarding their current job. In the last preparatory meeting it was decided that the candidate chosen for the post of Secretary should have a high profile and his/her main tasks would be the organization of meetings and general administration duties, leaving to the President and the members of the Executive Committee the executive tasks and the functions of representation before the European Union and other organizations.

At present, Marta de Lucas is working as administrative assistant, though her contract is pending formalization (it will be signed when there are sufficient funds for its payment).

Sean O'Donoghue puts forward that it would be desirable to look for an alternative solution in case the disbursement of funds by the Commission or the Ministry is delayed longer than expected.

J.Garat notes that the contracts with the European Commission are already signed, and the only thing pending is the necessary bank guarantee that has to be sent to get the first payment from the Commission, which is expected to take place during the month of June.

Furthermore, the Spanish Administration has promised to disburse its contribution within a few days.

a) LDRAC working procedure.

J. Garat notes the need to establish Rules of Procedure, as is the case with other RACs. This proposal, which had already been made at the General Assembly, is favourably received and it is decided that a draft of such document should be drawn up (based on the best practices of existing Rules of Procedure of other RACs) to be tabled at the next EC.

**b) Inter-RAC group and coordination meetings with the Commission.
Inter-RAC Meeting - Vienna 15.06.2007.**

It is decided that Marta de Lucas should attend the meeting in Vienna, as matters related to the Secretariats of the RACs will be discussed. In parallel, there will be a meeting of the Control Agency to be attended by the President or another member.

J.M Liria proposes that the RAC be represented at the annual meetings of the regional fishing organizations. Several members consider that this is a little premature since this RAC should first reach an internal consensus, begin its work and, later on, the suitability of sending a representative to those meetings could be considered.

The representative of the Commission, Serge Beslier, reports on the different files that are undergoing the consultation process, among others: the Fight against Illegal Fishing, the Protection of Vulnerable Ecosystems, Rules of Origin...

The representatives of the Commission inform that updates of the Commission's work programme will be sent regularly.

3. Appointment of Chairperson, Vice-chairs, Rapporteurs and members of the working groups.

On the basis of previous consultations with the members, J. Garat proposes to make a recommendation to the Working Groups regarding the appointments their respective Presidents and Vice-presidents, whereby it is sought to find a balance among the different countries integrated in the LDRAC. The proposal is as follows:

- Group 1: Presidency for ORTHONGEL (France) with the Vice-Presidency rotating between FEOPE and ONAPE (Spain).

- Group 2: Presidency for NFFO (United Kingdom) and the Vice-Presidency for FEABP (Spain).

- Group 3: Presidency would remain vacant with the Vice-Presidency going to Dutch Pelagic Trawler Freezer Association (Holland).

- Group 4: Presidency for ONAPE (Spain) (ANACEF has also put forward a request for this post) with the Vice-Presidency held by CFFA (there are requests by the French organizations).

- Group 5: Presidency for FEOPE (Spain) (AIPE has also put forward a request for this post) with the Vice-Presidency and the Vice-Presidency for ADAPI (Portugal) (there is also a request for this post from CFFA).

There follows a lively debate on the above proposal.

The representative of Seas at Risk requests information on who decides the agenda of the Working Groups.

J. Garat proposes that this subject is included in Rules Procedure which are going to be drafted.

The representative of AIPCE, J.M Vieites remarks that his organization has not been taken into

consideration for the Working Groups though they had requested the Presidency of Group 5, which the above proposal does not take into account.

J.M Liria explains that in the selection of Presidencies for the Groups it has been sought to mainly consider the best interests of the fisheries sector, as is the case with other RACs.

J.Garat proposes that since it is intended to divide Group 5 into 3 sub-groups, AIPICE could hold the Presidency of one of them with the Vice-Presidency rotating between AIPICE and ADAPI.

The representative of AIPICE accepts the Presidency of the subgroup but rejects the proposal of a rotating Vice-Presidency. He is supported by the representative of ORTHONGEL.

J.M Liria re-formulates the proposal regarding Group 5 and suggests that FEOPE hold the Presidency, AIPICE the First Vice-presidency, the latter holding also the Presidency of the subgroup on trading and processing, while the Second Vice-Presidency would be held by ADAPI.

The representative of "Seas at Risk" seconds this new proposal, provided that the members of the different Working Groups can table proposals regarding the subjects to be included in the agendas of the meetings of these Groups.

The President of ONAPE states that any point put forward by the members of Working Groups would be addressed and furthermore proposes that this question be included in the future Rules of Procedure.

Having been established that the proposal is largely supported, it is put to the vote and approved (including the proviso introduced by the representative of Seas at Risk).

J.M Vieites, representing AIPICE, requests that his opposition to the proposal be clearly recorded in the minutes since AIPICE had requested the Presidency of Group 5, though his organization accepts the approved proposal.

4. Timetable of meetings of working groups, Executive Committee and General Assembly.

J.M Liria reports that the following meetings have been foreseen in the budget:

- one yearly meeting of the General Assembly,
- two meetings of the Executive Committee per year,
- two meetings per year for each Working Group (which would themselves decide their own timetable of activities after their first meeting).

By defect, the meetings will be held in Madrid, though they may be held in other cities in Spain or other countries at the proposal of the members.

Joaquin Cadilla asks what is the procedure that must be followed if there is need to make rapid consultations.

J.M Liria answers that, according to Art. 24 of the Statutes, the President may call a meeting of EC members to treat certain matters or may carry out rapid consultations.

The representatives of UAPF, Dutch Pelagic Trawler Freezer Association and KFO propose that efforts be made to have the different groups meet on the same date to facilitate the attendance of the different members, and also that meetings be held in some town that is easily accessible to everybody.

J.M Liria requests the organizations nominated to hold Presidencies of Working Groups to

provisionally take charge of kick-starting the organization of the respective Groups.

5. Update on Commission Work Programme:

- ***Current consultations in place:***

The representative of the European Commission, Emmanouil Papaioannou, makes a brief summary on the consultations that are currently under way.

Consultations have been made, in particular, on the Fight against Illegal Fishing, Fishing Rights and Marine Policy and Discards in Fisheries.

- ***Seminars and Conferences:***

- **Possible study tour to Iceland and Norway.**

The Commission has invited a representative (the President) of the each RAC and one representative of "other interest groups" to accompany a delegation of the Commission in its study tour to Iceland and Norway to tackle the problem of discards of fish

- **Economic Conference in Island, 10-11 July 2007.**

The representative of UAPF states that the previous study tour to the United States and Canada did not seem to him very productive since little return information was made available and also because sometimes the representatives (the Presidents) taking part do not have the necessary hands-on implication (field experience).

It is decided that the question of who will participate should be settled at the end of the EC meeting.

6. Participation in the Control Agency Advisory Committee (Full and alternate member).

Harm Koster makes a presentation of the Control Agency.

The representative of "Seas at Risk" proposes that the substitute member be one of the organizations that form part of the 1/3.

After a brief discussion, no decision is adopted on the above, leaving the matter to be decided in the coming months.

7. Next Executive Committee Meeting (place and date of celebration).

J. Garat proposes that the next meeting of the Executive Committee takes place either in September or in October (and offers Lisbon as an option) with the final dates to be determined once the timetable of other RACs has been consulted to facilitate due coordination.

8. Any other Business.

The representative of "The Danish for Society for a Living Sea" states his uneasiness at the slow start of the LDRAC activities.

The representative of the Cluster wants the rotation system and the organizations affected by it to be clearly established in the Rules of Procedure.

The President of the LDRAC, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article XXII of the Statute, delegates in Juan Manuel Liria Franch, First Vice-President of LDRAC, the powers of representation and signature before notary of the guarantee required to receive financial assistance from the European Commission.