

MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY LONG DISTANCE ADISORY COUNCIL (LDAC)

**Opera Ambassador Hotel
16, Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 75009
Tuesday, 30 May 2017
2:00 pm– 4:30 pm**

Chair: Iván López Van der Veer

Vice Chairs: Béatrice Gorez, Juan Manuel Liria, Marc Ghiglia

Rapporteurs (Secretariat): Alexandre Rodríguez and Manuela Iglesias

1. Welcome

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, welcomes those present and then lists the delegations of vote received by the Secretariat from absent members in favour of present members:

- Ms. Sara Fröcklin (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) delegates to Ms. Beatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE).
- Mr. Ian Gatt (SPFA) delegates to Ms. Lise Lautsen Johnsen (DPPO)
- Mr. Francisco Portela Rosa (VIANAPESCA) delegates to Mr. Juan Manuel Liria (CEPESCA)
- Mr. José Manuel Fdez. Beltrán (OPP-Lugo) delegates to Mr. Javier Garat (CEPESCA)
- Mr. Pierre Commere (FIAC) delegates to Mr. Michel Goujon (ORTHONGEL)

The list of participants (members and observers) is included as Annex I.

The members are informed by the Secretariat that the necessary quorum for adoption of decisions (50% of the total members present or represented) is acquired.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is approved including a subheading under item 4 regarding the assessment of the work and activities carried out by the LDAC during year 10.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (Brussels, 18 October 2016)

The minutes of the previous meeting are approved with no comments or modifications.

4. Report by the Chair/Secretariat on Year 11 (1 June 2017 – 31 May 2018)

On behalf of the Chair and the Executive Committee, the Secretary General, Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, presented a balance of the work carried out by the organisation in Year 10 (1 June 2016 - 31 May 2017), summarising the actions and agreements from the main meetings and listing the letters, recommendations and opinions adopted. There were no additional comments by the members. The presentation is available on this link:

<http://ldac.ldac.eu/attachment/7d69152d-ed6-434f-805e-2c2da93866e8>

4.1. Strategic Plan/Annual Work Programme.

The Secretary presented the Annual Strategic Plan already adopted by the Executive Committee with the work priorities for Year 11 (to begin on 1 June 2017), in accordance with the provisions of articles XV (sections b and d) of the current LDAC Rules of Procedure.

The ten work priorities proposed and approved by the Executive Committee are:

1. Actively fighting against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, improving the application of the IUU Regulation by means of proposals as well as promoting dialogue and regional coordination among the national Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems.
2. Promoting international ocean governance and the role of fisheries in the EU integrated maritime policy and the blue economy, both within the LDAC and in the relevant international organisations (UN, BBNJ, *Our Ocean* Conference, RFMOs, etc.).
3. Defending the consistency between EU fisheries and other policies.
4. Developing joint initiatives and activities with our partner COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO.
5. Improving transparency and good governance in fisheries management decision-making through initiatives such as FiTI, the Farfish H2020 project or the Tuna Transparency Initiative (TTI) in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.
6. Providing technical advice to DG MARE regarding the preparatory meetings for negotiations within RFMOs of interest to LDAC (NAFO, ICCAT, IOTC, etc.).
7. Establishing a link with DG DEVCO and setting up dialogue mechanisms improving knowledge in projects regarding regional governance, fisheries management and control.
8. Closely monitoring negotiations and the effective application of the new type of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs); and supervising the renewal of existing protocols, as well as improving transparency, access to information and consistent reporting on the use of funds related to sectoral aid in third countries.
9. Obtaining information on socio-economic, work and social aspects regarding trade agreements: negotiations of economic partnership agreements and free trade agreements, as well as other international trade negotiations.
10. Jointly preparing consultations with the European Commission on issues related to UN, FAO, ILO, etc.

The full work programme is available on the following link:
<http://ldac.ldac.eu/attachment/51a5c22c-7fdd-46f9-b2a2-4d54dbc3ffd5>

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly unanimously approve the annual report on Year 10 and the annual strategic plan for Year 11, both being formally adopted in virtue of provisions set forth in articles XIII and XV, section a) of LDAC Rules of procedure.

4.2. Provisional calendar of meetings.

The Secretary General details the calendar of meetings for the second half of 2017 and the first half of 2018, which is available for consultation on the LDAC website (www.ldac.eu).

Attention should be drawn to the meetings of Working Groups 1, 4 and 5, which will be held in Brussels in October; and of Working Group 2, which will probably be held in mid-November in London, on the occasion of the annual NEAFC meeting. In addition, the Executive Committee will meet in late November in Madrid. Finally, the following Ordinary Annual General Assembly and the Executive Committee meeting will be held in May 2018.

Mr. Björn Stockhausen, Seas at Risk, requests LDAC meetings not to be held on the same date as those of other ACs or other organisations insofar as possible, as well as further coordination when setting dates on the international calendar.

ACTION: The calendar of meetings will be regularly updated on the LDAC website and the members will be duly notified the confirmed dates via email/web. The LDAC Secretary will timely update meeting dates on the online Inter-AC calendar in order to avoid or minimise overlapping with the meetings of other Advisory Councils.

5. Annual ratification of the appointment of the LDAC Chair

The continuation of Mr. Iván López as Chair is unanimously ratified for the mandate he was appointed for (3 years), with 2 years remaining.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, thanks the members for their trust.

6. Report by Secretariat on administration and finances

6.1. Status of the annual accounts (income/expenditure) of Year 10 (2016-2017).

The Secretary General, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, gives a detailed presentation breaking down the accounts and the report on the LDAC's income and spending, as well as the calendar of activities still to be carried out.

Then, he informs that all member organisations are up to date with their fees and that the Member State with outstanding fees (Lithuania) is expected to make payment before the end of the financial year, as it is the case with the final outstanding amount from the EC once the audit report and final report have been presented.

The Chair thanks the Secretary for the presentation and reports that the Executive Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the provisional accounts, bearing in mind that the financial year has not been closed with the outstanding payments from the last meetings (including this one).

The presentation is available for consultation in the meetings section on the LDAC website: www.ldac.eu

DECISION: The final budget and annual accounts of Year 10 of the LDAC are approved by the members of the General Assembly by consensus, with no objections, and the Secretariat is urged to complete the necessary procedures until the financial year is closed.

6.2. Proposed budget for Year 11 (2017-2018)

After presentation of the proposed Executive Committee budget by the Secretary General (available on the website), the Chair recommends that the General Assembly approve the budget for the next financial year, which runs from 1 June 2017 to 31 May 2018.

Before approving it, it is noted that the proposal presented is a provisional budget “of minimums” based on the principle of budgetary prudence and in conformity with the rules of the Financial Regulation of the European Commission, taking only as certain the income actually received and/or firmly committed. The LDAC is awaiting receipt of income from Member States’ fees, including the contribution from the Spanish Administration. As in previous financial years, a request to formally amend the proposal will be made to the Commission before the financial year is over to adjust the new income and balance items with costs.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly approve the LDAC’s Year 11 budget by consensus.

6.3. Report on changes in LDAC membership

The Secretariat reports that the LDAC is currently formed by 50 members of the General Assembly, since the Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF) has requested to leave the LDAC due to their conflict of interest triggered by the Brexit process. Three requests to join the LDAC in the year 11 were received from the following organisations:

- JSC Arctic Fishing – Extractive Fisheries Sector, Lithuania
- FRUCOM – Marketing and Import/Export Fisheries Sector, EU
- BLOOM – Other stakeholders, conservation NGO, France

Mr. Frederic Le Manach, Bloom, and Mr. Giedrius, JSC Arctic Fishing, introduce their respective organisations, explaining the work they carry out and their desire to join the LDAC.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez reads a presentation document submitted by Ms. Anna Boulova, representative of FRUCOM, in her absence.

6.4. Admission of new LDAC members.

After consulting with the European Commission and the rest of Member States in the manner and within the period prescribed, and there being no opposition, the decision to admit the three candidate organisations as LDAC members is subject to the General Assembly.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly approve that BLOOM, JSC ARCTIC FISHING and FRUCOM become new LDAC members by consensus.

6.5. Adoption/ratification of points 1-3.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary General, informs on the request received by Mr Francisco Mari, representative of Bread for the World, for his organisation to be part of the Executive Committee and take one of the two vacant seats for “other stakeholders”.

Mr. Francisco Mari explains the reasons of their request, owing to their interest in being able to contribute to the Executive Committee after many years of active membership in the LDAC General Assembly.

The representative of BLOOM, Frédéric Le Manach, shows an interest in his organisation becoming part of the Executive Committee in the last available vacancy for the remaining mandate period.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly unanimously approve that NGOs Bread for the World and BLOOM become members of the LDAC Executive Committee for the remaining mandate period (2 years).

7. Running and operation of Advisory Councils

7.1. Proposal to Amend Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242

There is no news to report in this regard.

7.2. Discussion among members on the LDAC internal procedure.

This discussion is postponed until the next LDAC General Assembly is held.

8. Communication and Institutional Relations

8.1. Adoption of the communication strategy plan.

The LDAC Chair, Mr. Iván López, states that owing to lack of time this item will not be addressed at this meeting, proposing to include it in the agenda of the Executive Committee to be held in November.

ACTION: The Secretariat will redistribute the draft communication strategy plan for consideration and discussion among the members of the Executive Committee.

8.2. LDAC Corporate Video and Social Media (Twitter/YouTube).

After watching the LDAC corporate video, the members propose to add more images of women and local coastal communities.

ACTION: The Secretariat will work with those in charge of the video animation to include the comments and changes received from the members prior to the launching of the final version.

9. Collaboration lines LDAC-COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO in the Atlantic Ocean

9.1. Joint work assessment and collaboration summary for 2017

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, Secretary General, summarises the meetings and contacts held with COMHAFAT-ATLAFCO and highlights that the relevant minutes/informative documents have been sent.

9.2. Future actions (events, coordination meetings, etc.)

The Secretary General, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, informs on the possible North Atlantic meeting that could be jointly organised with the PelAC, the details of which are still to be decided.

10. Summary of Agreements Reached and Actions Agreed

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, closes the session thanking the members and observers present for their attendance and active participation; the interpreters for their effort throughout the meeting, and the Secretariat for their logistic, organisational and content-related work in the preparation of the meeting.

The meeting is adjourned at 5 pm.

ANNEX I. List of participants

MEMBERS

1. Iván López. LDAC Chair. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Beatrice Gorez. LDAC 1st Vice Chair. CFFA-CAPE
3. Juan Manuel Liria. LDAC 2nd Vice Chair. FEOPE
4. Marc Ghiglia. LDAC 3rd Vice Chair. UAPF/CNPMEM
5. Michel Goujon. WG1 Chair. ORTHONGEL
6. Jane Sandell. WG2 Chair. NFFO
7. José Antonio Suárez-Llanos. WG3 Chair. ANAMER/AGARBA/ANAPA/ACEMIX
8. Gerard van Balsfoort. WG2 and WG3 Vice Chair. DPTFA
9. José Carlos Castro. WG5 Vice Chair. ANFACO-CECOPESCA
10. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
11. Jan G. Larsen. Living Sea
12. Javier Garat. FEOPE
13. Despina Symons. EBCD
14. Katarina Sipic. CONXEMAR
15. Bjorn Stockhausen. Seas at Risk
16. Raúl Garcia. WWF
17. Irene Vidal. EIJF
18. Claus Ubl. DHV
19. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
20. Lise Johnsen. DPPO
21. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
22. Aivaras Labanauskas. Atlantic Fisheries Company
23. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
24. Sean O'Donoghue. KFO
25. Francisco Mari. BFW
26. Caroline Mangalo. CNPMEM
27. Sylvie Roux. CNPMEM

OBSERVERS

1. Martine Aussems. DG MARE CE (Finances coordinator with the ACs)
2. Ingrid Kelling. International Pole & Line Foundation
3. Frederic Le Manach. BLOOM
4. Giedrius Gruzdis. JSC ARCTIC FISHING
5. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC – Secretary General
6. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC Secretariat – Fisheries Policy and Communication
7. Marta de Lucas. LDAC Secretariat – Administration and Finance