

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE LDAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council
Altis Grand Hotel. Rua Castilho 11
Lisbon – Portugal**

Tuesday 31 May 2016
2:00 p.m. to 5:25 p.m.

Acting chair: Juan Manuel Liria Franch
Vice-chairs: Raúl García, Marc Ghiglia
Rapporteurs: Alexandre Rodríguez and Manuela Iglesias

1. Welcome

The acting chair, Mr Liria, welcomes those present and then lists the delegations of vote received by the Secretariat from absent members in favour of other members present:

- Ms Sara Fröcklin (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) delegates to Ms Beatrice Gorez (CFFA-CAPE);
- Mr Boguslaw Szemieth (North Atlantic Producers Organisation) delegates to Mr Iván López (AGARBA/FEABP);
- Mr Peter Pedersen (Ocean Tiger) delegates to Mr Toomas Tamme (ELDFA);
- Ms Sylvie Roux (CNPMEM) delegates to Mr Marc Ghiglia (UAPF);
- Ms Jane Sandell (NFFO) delegates to Mr Iván López (AGARBA/FEABP);
- Mr Michail Larionov (Lithuanian Fisheries Producers Association) delegates to Mr Gerard Van Balsfoort (Dutch Pelagic Freezers Association);
- Mr Francisco Portelarosa (VIANAPESCA) delegates to Ms Juana Parada (ORPAGU);
- Ms Rocío Béjar (ONAPE) delegates to Mr Javier Garat (FEOPE);
- Mr Pierre Commere (FIAC) delegates to Mr Michel Goujon (ORTHONGEL);
- Ms Laura Koene (EUROTHON) delegates to Mr Juan Manuel Vieites (ANFACO-CECOPESCA).

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

The members are informed that 40 of the 51 members of the LDAC General Assembly are present and/or represented, whereby the necessary quorum (50% of total members present or represented) for adoption of decisions has been acquired.

2. Reading and adoption of the agenda

The agenda is approved with neither modifications nor proposals for additional issues.

3. Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting (Dublin, May 2015)

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

4. Report by the Chair/Secretariat on Years 9 and 10

4.1. Summary of work in Year 9 and Strategic Plan/Annual Work Programme

The Secretary General, Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, presented on behalf of the Chair and the Executive Committee a balance of the work carried out by the organisation in Year 9 (1 June 2015 – 31 May 2016), which ends today, 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 Secretary next presented the Annual Strategic Plan already adopted by the Executive Committee with the work priorities for Year 10 (to begin on 1 June 2016), in accordance with the provisions of articles XV (sections b and d) of the current LDAC Rules of Procedure.

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

1. Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, improving dialogue and coordination of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), offering assistance and advice to DG MARE and the EFCA;
2. Promotion of fisheries policy consistent with other community policies (cooperation for development, environment, labour, trade, etc);
3. Development of joint initiatives in the framework of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with the West African Ministerial Conference on Fisheries (ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT);
4. Organisation of the Second International Conference on application of the external dimension of the CFP, focusing on the North Atlantic fisheries (EU bilateral relations with third countries, RFMOs and international waters);
5. Improved transparency and good fisheries governance and participation in initiatives such as the FiTI or the TTI;
6. Technical preparatory work advising DG MARE about annual meetings of relevant Regional Fisheries Organisations (RFOs), fundamentally NAFO and ICCAT;
7. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs);
8. Trade and partnership agreements (EPAs, FTAs);
9. United Nations agreements and conventions, FAO resolutions, conventions of the ILO and other international organisations (BBNJ, etc).

Both the complete presentation of the Year 9 annual report and the Year 10 strategic plan are available for your consultation in the meeting's respective section on the LDAC website: www.ldac.eu.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly unanimously approve the annual report concerning Year 9 and the annual strategic plan for Year 10, considering both to be formally adopted in accordance with the provisions of article XIII and XV section a) of the LDAC rules of procedure.

4.2. Provisional calendar of meetings

The Secretary General details the meetings calendar for the second half of 2016 and the first four months of 2017, which is available for consultation on the LDAC website.

Chiefly standing out are the meetings of working groups 1, 4 and 5, which will be held in October in Brussels, and of working group 2, which will probably be held on 15 November in London on the occasion of the annual NEAFC meeting.

The Executive Committee will meet in late November in Madrid and the 2nd LDAC International Conference on the External Dimension of the CFP regarding the North Atlantic is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2017. Finally, the Ordinary Annual General Assembly and the Executive Committee meeting will be held in the last fortnight of May 2017.

ACTION: The meetings calendar will be regularly updated on the LDAC website and the members will be duly notified of the confirmed dates via email/web.

5. Report by Secretariat on administration and finances:

5.1. Status of the annual accounts (income/expenditure) of Year 9 (2015-2016)

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.

All member organisations are up to date with their fees and the 2 Member States with outstanding fees (United Kingdom and Lithuania) are expected to make payment before the end of the financial year, likewise 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 9 of the LDAC is approved by the General Assembly members by consensus, with no objections.

5.2. Proposed budget for Year 10 (June 2016-May 2017)

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 2016 to 31 May 2017.

Before approving it, it is noted that the proposal presented is a provisional budget "of minimums", awaiting receipt of income from Member States' fees, including the contribution from the Spanish Administration (139,810 euros). 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 allocations with costs.

DECISION: The members of the General Assembly approve the LDAC's Year 10 budget by consensus.

5.3. Report on changes in LDAC membership

The Secretariat reports that the LDAC is formed by 51 members of the General Assembly and that no requests for new memberships or membership cancellations have been received for Year 10.

5.4. Adoption/ratification of points 1-3.

Points 1-3 are adopted/ratified by the General Assembly members.

6. LDAC rules of procedure (statutes): alignment with CFP and EMFF

6.1. Summary report of agreed changes

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez recalls that the reason for modifying the statutes is due to the existence of a legal imperative to align the LDAC's internal rules with the Community Regulations of the new Common Fisheries Policy which took force on 1/1/2014, to wit: Basic Regulation 1380/2013 of the Common Fisheries Policy; Delegated Regulation (EU) 242/2015 governing the function of the Advisory Councils, which took force in February 2015; and Regulation (EU) no. 508/2014 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), indicating that the ACs are bodies that pursue an aim of European interest, enabling them to request additional financing sources (see articles 85 and 86).

He recalls in turn that the main changes that have already met consensus are: the change of the official name from LDRAC to LDAC (i.e. the word 'regional' is dropped from the Advisory Councils); the new composition of the members of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, which changes from 2/3:1/3 to 60%:40% for the fisheries sector and other stakeholders, respectively; and increasing the Executive Committee seats from 24 to 25 with the possibility of raising it to 30 whenever small-scale fisheries are represented. The occasion was also used to update the language (bodies of the European Union and not EC) and operating dynamics to reflect usual practice and evolution of the LDAC's role since it was created in 2007. For example, an article was added to expressly include the figure of the Vice-Chairs and to define their mandate and functions; information was completed on the procedure for creating ad hoc focus groups on issues of occasional interest; the periods for emergency (*fast track*) consultation processes were better delineated; or it was specified, on a member's request, that it will be the LDAC Chair, per proposal by the Secretary General, who designates an official auditor of accounts to review the annual accounts before they are presented to the General Assembly.

6.2. Adoption of the proposed statutory modifications:

After a period of reflection and consultation, the definitive version was sent to the Executive Committee members and to the designated representatives of the Member States and to the officials from the European Commission with the proposed changes, in accordance with articles XVII and XXXIV. The final document is presented for adoption with the comments and clarifications received by the Commission. It is noted that owing to the provisions of articles XV and XVII, a qualified majority of at least 2/3 of the members present and represented is required to approve modifications to the Rules of Procedure.

DECISION: The members approve the statutory modification, agreeing that the Secretariat should carry out all legal procedures stipulated in Spanish regulations so that the modified Rules of Procedure can be deposited and registered to full effect in the National Registry of Associations of Spain.

7. Elections to the Executive Committee: Chair, Vice-Chairs and Members

7.1. Chair and Vice-Chairs

Given the decision by Mr Juan Manuel Liria to not continue as LDAC Chair, Mr Javier Garat, CEPESCA, presents the candidacy of Mr Iván López Van der Veen, AGARBA/FEABP, to become Chair of the LDAC.

Mr Raúl García in turn presents the candidacy of Ms Beatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, to become First Vice-Chair of the LDAC.

As no other candidacy was received, the Secretary General asked Mr Juan Manuel Liria, FEOPE, and Mr Marc Ghiglia, UAPF/CNPMEM, if they were open to renewing their mandate as Vice-Chairs for a new 3-year term. Both indicated that they were and that they were willing to continue, with the members' backing.

DECISION: The members of the LDAC General Assembly unanimously approved the appointment of the following Executive Committee positions:

Chair: Mr Iván López
First Vice-Chair: Ms Beatrice Gorez
Second Vice-Chair: Mr Juan Manuel Liria
Third Vice-Chair: Mr Marc Ghiglia

Mr Iván López Van der Veen indicates his commitment to submitting to a motion of confidence and evaluation of his work each year in the respective General Assemblies. Approval was given for this to be done in the next Ordinary General Assembly in May 2017.

7.2. Members

The Secretary General, Mr Alexandre Rodríguez, explains that according to community regulations it is necessary to 'amortise' a fisheries sector seat to adjust the new composition ratio from 2/3 of 24 (16) to 60% of 25 (15), owing to the higher number of seats for other stakeholders, which rose from 1/3 (8) to 40% (10).

Regarding the **other stakeholders category** (NGOs), for a total of 10 seats eight candidacies were received, of which seven are opting for re-election and one is new: Environmental Justice Foundation, whose main representative is Irene Vidal.

DECISION: The General Assembly members agree to name all the candidate organisations of the 'Other Stakeholders' category as members of the Executive Committee; the 2 remaining vacant posts can be filled in the future.

Regarding the **fisheries sector category**, interest was shown by 17 organisations for 15 posts. As a novelty, the Portuguese organisation ADAPI again requested a seat on the Executive Committee; there is currently just one place for VIANAPESCA due to the past voluntary renunciation by the then Chair and representative of ADAPI, Mr Antonio Cabral.

The agreement from the November 2015 Executive Committee meeting is recalled, requesting from the Commission more seats for the LDAC (up to a maximum of 30) as envisaged in the Commission Delegated Regulation whenever representation of the small-scale fleet is justified. The Chair requests that the members approve authorisation for the LDAC Secretariat to ask the Commission about a possible increase of the additional seats in order to accommodate pending candidates, bearing in mind the small-scale or inshore fleet in non-community waters (one example indicated is the shellfish fleet of Andalusia under Spanish flag, with presence and fishing licences in the waters of Morocco's EEZ).

After discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee should comprise at least the following:

- 1 post for the extractive subsector of each interested Member State for a total of 10 that have shown their interest: Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland and United Kingdom;
- 1 post for the representatives of sea workers and unions (ETF);
- 1 post for the transformation/processing/commercialisation subsector;
- 8 posts for other stakeholders and non-governmental organisations.

There are 2 vacant places in the sector for other stakeholders due to lack of demand and a total of 5 organisations for 4 places in the fisheries sector category:

Extractive Sector

1. CEPESCA (Spain)
2. ORTHONGEL (France)
3. ADAPI (Portugal)

Processing Sector

4. ANFACO-CECOPECA (Spain)
5. European Association of Fish Processors and Marketers – AIPCE-CEP (EU)

After arduous deliberations, rotation among all of them was proposed. However, no agreement was reached, whereby it was decided to postpone the decision and leave those places vacant in order to continue the negotiations. In the event that no consensus is reached, the matter will be put to vote in an Extraordinary General Assembly to be summoned by the Chair by means of the Secretariat before the end of the year 2016.

Due to the naming of Iván López as LDAC Chair, Spain voluntarily renounces a seat on the Executive Committee, reducing the number of candidates from 3 to 2, following on the similar past decision by Antonio Cabral with respect to the ADAPI and Portugal.

DECISION: 11 organisations of the 15 are appointed members of the fisheries sector, leaving 4 pending vacancies to be decided in a subsequent meeting.

CANDIDATE ORGANISATIONS FOR PENDING FISHERIES SECTOR SEATS

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| CEPECA – ONAPE | Extractive Sector | Spain | Javier Garat / Rocío Béjar |
| Cooperativa Produtores Peixe Viana do Castelo (VIANAPESCA) | Extractive Sector | Portugal | Francisco Portela Rosa |
| Associação dos Armadores das Pescas Industriais (ADAPI) | Extractive Sector | Portugal | Luis Vicente |
| Organisation de Producteurs de Thon Congelé et Surgelé (ORTHONGEL) | Extractive Sector | France | Michel Goujon |
| Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins (CNP MEM) | Extractive Sector | France | Marc Ghiglia |
| Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Conservas (ANFACO) | Processing | Spain | Juan Manuel Vieites |
| EU Fish Processors Association / European Federation of Importers-Exporters (AIPCE-CEP) | Processing | EU | Katarina Sipic / Pierre Comerre |

MEMBERS OF THE LDAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1 JUNE 2016 – 31 MAY 2019)

| No. | ORGANISATION | CATEGORY | COUNTRY | NAME |
|-----|---|-------------------|----------------|--|
| 0 | Chair – CEPESCA / AGARBA | Extractive Sector | Spain | Iván López |
| 1 | CEPESCA - FEOPE | Extractive Sector | Spain | Juan Manuel Liria |
| 2 | German Deep Sea Fisheries Association | Extractive Sector | Germany | Haraldur Gretarsson |
| 3 | Danish Pelagic Producer Organisation (DPPO) | Extractive Sector | Denmark | Esben Sverdrup-Jensen |
| 4 | Estonian Long Distance Fishing Association (ELDFA) | Extractive Sector | Estonia | Hjálmar Vihljámson |
| 5 | Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO) | Extractive Sector | Ireland | Sean O'Donoghue |
| 6 | Dutch Pelagic Freezer Trawler Association (DPFTA) | Extractive Sector | Netherlands | Gerard van Balsfoort |
| 7 | North Atlantic Producers Organisation (NAPO) | Extractive Sector | Poland | Bougoslaw Szemioth |
| 8 | National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) | Extractive Sector | United Kingdom | Barrie Deas |
| 9 | ORTHONGEL or CNPMEM | Extractive Sector | France | Michel Goujon or Marc Ghiglia |
| 10 | VIANAPESCA or ADAPI | Extractive Sector | Portugal | Francisco Portela Rosa or Luis Vicente |
| 11 | European Transport Federation (ETF) | Union | EU | Juan Manuel Trujillo |
| 12 | <i>Pending</i> | | | |
| 13 | <i>Pending</i> | | | |
| 14 | <i>Pending</i> | | | |
| 15 | <i>Pending</i> | | | |
| 16 | European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) | NGO | Belgium | Despina Symons |
| 17 | Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements (CFFA-CAPE) | NGO | Belgium | Beatrice Gorez |
| 18 | Seas At Risk (SAR) | NGO | Belgium | Björn Stockhausen |
| 19 | World Wildlife Fund (WWF) | NGO | EU | Raúl Garcia |
| 20 | OCEANA Europe | NGO | EU | María José Cornax |
| 21 | Environmental Justice Foundation | NGO | EU | Irene Vidal |
| 22 | Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) | NGO | Sweden | Kajsa Garpe |
| 23 | The Danish Society for a Living Sea | NGO | Denmark | Erik Olsen |
| 24 | VACANT | NGO | | |
| 25 | VACANT | NGO | | |

8. Fisheries Policy questions:

European Commission Presentations:

8.1-Technical conservation measures

8.2-Promoting the blue economy and blue growth

Due to lack of time, it is agreed that the representative of DG MARE, Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, gives both presentations in the framework of the next working groups or the November meeting of the Executive Committee. Both presentations will meanwhile be posted on the LDAC website, in the section on this General Assembly.

Action: The LDAC Secretariat will post both presentations on the LDAC website and they will in turn be sent to the members by email. Both presentations will also be included in the corresponding agenda so they can be explained by the EC.

9. Communication and Institutional Relations:

Mr Alexandre Rodríguez briefly reports the work done by the Secretariat in this area and comments on the update of the following areas in the scope of communications and public and institutional relations:

9.1. Presentation of the new LDAC website

The new website's improvements are explained, highlighting better visualisation of the meetings calendar and the updated document archive and list of publications, with key word search engine and filters enabling searches by topic and year. Also standing out is the organisation's enhanced presence in social networks, especially via the Twitter account (@LDAC_eu) which underwent notable growth in the last year, growing from just 50 to more than 350 followers and with daily updating of content (news, opinions, consultations, participation in own forums and external events, etc). The definitive aim is for the website to become a more intuitive, secure and easy-to-use tool.

Information was also provided about future website functions which are already being implemented, such as:

- A private area with access limited to members so they can adjust their respective profile, participate in consultation blogs and receive individual notifications;
- Development of a specific application for tablets and smartphones to access the same web content in a more dynamic manner outside the usual workplaces. As soon as it is ready a training session will be held in Madrid, open to all members; a manual or instruction guide will also be sent to those members unable to attend.

9.2. Publication of institutional brochure

Physical copies of the institutional brochure in Spanish are presented and distributed among the members, who are urged to review it and sent in their comments. English and French print versions and digital editions will also be produced, along with updates, when appropriate. Lastly, the digital version will be placed at the general public's disposal via the website at <http://ldac.ldac.eu/download-doc/106274>

9.3. Corporate Video

The members are informed that the Secretariat is planning to produce during Year 10 a video lasting 2-4 minutes including practical examples of the LDAC's work which can be posted on the organisation's YouTube channel.

9.4. Adoption of the communication strategy plan

Following the presentation given by the Secretary General to the Madrid Executive Committee (25 November 2015), a draft of the communication strategy plan was distributed among the General Assembly members by email.

Comments were received about whether or not it was convenient to be proactive, given that it is an advisory organisation and not a lobby. In response, the Secretary explained that the object of this plan is to have a framework providing information about the procedure for publishing press releases and key messages to disseminate among the members and to ensure a certain amount of control or oversight so that the disseminated messages are in line with commitments and decisions adopted by consensus in the LDAC, to avoid promoting partisan interests. The Plan is only a departure point which can be developed as the members so decide. Due to lack of time, agreement was reached to further develop this proposal and postpone its discussion until future plenary meetings.

10. Closure of the General Assembly

The Chair closes the session, thanking the members and observers present for their attendance and participation, the Secretariat for its work preparing the meeting, the interpreters for their effort and the hotel's technical staff for their professionalism.

The meeting is adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ANNEX I. List of participants

MEMBERS

1. Juan Manuel Liria. FEOPE
2. Beatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
3. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
4. Erik Bjørn Olsen. Living Sea
5. Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL
6. Javier Garat. FEOPE
7. Marc Ghiglia. UAPF/CNPMEM
8. Gerard Van-Balsfoort. DPFTA
9. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
10. Sean O'Donoghue. KFO
11. Björn Stockhausen. Seas at Risk
12. Sandra Sanmartín. EBCD
13. Ian Gatt. SPFA
14. Mercedes Rodriguez. OPP Lugo
15. Toomas Tamme. EL DFA
16. Katarina Sipic. CONXEMAR
17. Julio Morón. OPAGAC
18. Irene Vidal. EIJ
19. José Antonio Suárez-Llanos. ANAMER/AGARBA/ANAPA/ACEMIX
20. Juan Manuel Vieites. ANFACO-CECOPECA
21. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
22. Claus Ubl. DHV
23. Raúl García. WWF
24. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
25. Francisco Mari. BFW
26. Iván López. AGARBA/FEABP
27. Mike Park. SWFPA
28. Lise Johnsen. DPPO
29. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen. DPPO
30. Anertz Muniategi. ANABAC

OBSERVERS

1. Evangelia Georgitsi. CE
2. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
3. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC
4. Marta de Lucas. LDAC