



Advice of the LDRAC on a strategy to insure transparency and compliance of the European tuna purse-seine fisheries (by WG 1)

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- Recalling the Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;
- Considering that the recently approved European Parliament report on the future CFP basic regulation EP Resolution on External Dimension considers that bilateral fisheries agreements, or Sustainable Fisheries Agreements (SFA) as the Commission proposes to call them, negotiated between partners and equitably implemented, should be based on responsible and sustainable exploitation of resources by EU vessels and be of benefit to both parties.
- Considering the European Parliament report on the future basic regulation which highlights that Union fishing activities outside Sustainable Fisheries Agreements should be transparent, with information to be made available on any private arrangements between nationals of a Member State and a third country that allow fishing vessels flying the flag of that Member State to engage in fishing activities in their waters.
- Considering that the same Report calls for the EU to aim at concluding, as soon as possible, Sustainable Fisheries Cooperation Agreements with neighbouring countries where the EU provides funding and technical support in order to achieve a more concerted and coherent policy, with the aim of achieving a harmonised and sustainable fisheries policy in all shared sea basins, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the CFP in all the regions concerned; calls for these agreements to be concluded in the spirit of fair and equitable cooperation and respect for human rights, and to aim at sharing responsibilities fairly between the Union and the respective partner country;
- Sharing with the Parliament the conviction that full transparency on catches, payments and implementation of the sectorial support will be an indispensable tool for developing responsible and sustainable fishing based on good governance, the fight against the improper use of EU support and against corruption;
- Considering the LDRAC position on the Green Paper on the CFP and the LDRAC document on the Commission Communication on the External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, more specifically:



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- As acknowledged in the Green Paper, the European tuna sector has a continued history of requesting the FPA network to be extended in order to cover the distribution area for tropical tuna, highly migratory species, as stated by the Council of Ministers of the European Union of October 30th, 1997 : "... makes a note that the Commission must study to what extent it is possible to develop the network of agreements on tuna".
 - This reiterated request is further justified in order to achieve absolute transparency for the EU fleet's activity in third countries, as the private agreements needed to cover their activities in every ocean, doesn't provide the adequate framework for the sustainable development of their activities. Since the EC is seemingly unable to undertake the negotiation of these new fishing agreements for lack of resources inside DG MARE, an alternative way should be sought.
- o Recognising the efforts of the European Tuna Industry in promoting sustainable and transparent arrangements for accessing tuna resources by the way of mutual cooperation between Coastal Countries and EU ship owners through a cooperative scheme that will facilitate the capacity building of Coastal States to improve Fisheries Governance.
 - o Recognising that there is an urgent need to build capacity at Coastal Country level to improve Good Governance and Transparency in order to achieve sustainable management of the fisheries resources at global scale.
 - o Recognizing that better transparency and control could be obtained by harmonizing and regionalizing rules to be complied with by the EU fleet such as vessel licensing, marking, harvest rules and control and noting that such objectives could be promoted through all bilateral fishing agreements and through RFMOs.
1. The LDRAC reiterates the objective of the External Dimension of the CFP as the promotion of a Global Agenda for sustainable fisheries, in all its dimensions: environmental, social and economic.
 2. The LDRAC believes that to achieve that objective it is required that the EC coordinates the efforts of all the services, especially DG Mare, DG Development and DG Trade in order to promote and finance capacity building in third countries to improve Fisheries Governance at National and Regional level, in order to achieve sustainable fisheries at global scale.
 3. The LDRAC consider that Sustainable Fisheries Agreements should become a substantive instrument to achieve that objective.
 4. The LDRAC requires the European Commission to maintain and develop the network of Sustainable Fisheries Agreements for tuna and tuna like species in the areas of operation of the EU fleet, in the most transparent and



effective way to consolidate the legal framework for the sustainable use of tuna resources for the EU fleet in third countries.

5. The LDRAC considers that in countries where there are no Sustainable Fisheries Agreements in place, special cooperation framework should be promoted from the EC services, in order to facilitate the relations of the Third Countries with EU operators through transparent private arrangements that should contain equivalent control and transparency instruments in accordance with the new EC Regulation 1006/2008 in relation to the authorization of EU vessels to fish outside EU waters.
6. The LDRAC supports the Tuna Transparency Initiative promoted by the EU tuna sector and consider that such initiative should be a substantive part of the cooperation with Coastal Countries in order to achieve the Global Agenda for sustainable tuna fisheries.
7. The LDRAC encourages the European Commission to support the initiatives to harmonize, rationalize and regionalize rules to be complied with by their fleet such as vessel licensing, marking, harvest rules and control.