



**Commissioner Ms. María Damanaki**  
**DG Mare**  
**Brussels**

Madrid, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2012

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing you a few lines to show my concern about how relations between the EC and the LDRAC are evolving.

During these last years our relations have had some ups and downs but we were currently under the impression that said relations had improved and that we were on the right path to achieve a fruitful mutual collaboration.

Nevertheless, during the last few months, the situation has become somewhat odd. On the one hand, the European Commission establishes as a non-negotiable principle that any decision shall be based on the best possible scientific knowledge; to that end, among other decisions, the EC bestows on the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries the task of validating all scientific reports coming from all Joint Committees by virtue of the Fisheries Agreements that the EU has signed with Third Countries.

Within this framework, the LDRAC wishes to establish the enabling conditions that can favor a closer relation with this entity. But, on the other hand, and in spite of all the nice words expressed by the Commission, when it comes down to materializing these relations, we are treated like a private individual and not like an Advisory Council for the European Institutions.

Last June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Commission organized a conference with all RFOs and failed to even inform the LDRAC about it, even though it was broadcasted online, and allow me to emphasize the word 'inform' in order to state clearly that we are not complaining about the fact that we were not



invited, even though that would have been desirable, but rather about the absolute lack of information about it.

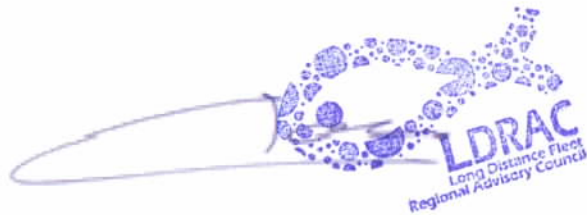
If we add this to the fact that the EC has not yet sat around with the RACs in order to discuss about their future role and functioning in the framework of the next CFP, I am sure that you will understand where our feelings of frustration and concern are coming from.

In the case of the LDRAC, our concern is increased due to the budgetary constraints that may prevent us from holding the meetings of our working groups in Brussels, just like we were told to do by the Commission so as to ensure proper participation by the Commission itself in said meetings, which, given the degree of commitment shown, would be highly doubtful to have if, due to said lack of resources, we were to go back to holding our WG meetings in Madrid.

With this in mind, we would entreat you to reflect upon the course of direction the EC is taking in its relations with the LDRAC in particular, although from what we know about other RACs it is safe to say that this is a broader problem, so as to redress the situation as soon as possible.

Awaiting your reply, I remain,

Yours faithfully



Antonio Cabral  
President

*CC: Ms. Evans, Mr. Penas, Mr. Depypere, Mr. Bianchi, Ms. Pérez-Maíz*