



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Director General

Brussels,
MARE.D.3/ADV ARES (2018)

Mr. Ivan López
Chairman Long Distance Advisory
Council
C/del Doctor Fleming 7, 2º Dcha
E- 28036 Madrid
SPAIN

Subject: LDAC Advice on the role of fishing agents contracted by EU fleets targeting straddling stocks, widely distributed and highly migratory stocks under the framework of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)

Your Ref.: Your email of 8th February 2018

Dear Mr. López,

Thank you very much for your email and your very constructive and helpful advice.

We take note of your concerns and we underline that indeed transparency is very important for the EU. While the EU cannot interfere in the national law of partner countries that defines the employment of local agents, it can, nevertheless, discuss the issue with partner countries and promote good practices of the services of local agents, in the spirit of partnership. However, this has to be done very carefully, knowing that employment is always a sensitive issue for SFPA partner countries.

In order to be able to address this issue we would like to know which SFPA partner countries pose difficulties. Concrete examples would help us to better identify the problems and to find possible solutions in the newly negotiated and signed Protocols to the SFPAs. For the sake of transparency, DG MARE may discuss those concrete cases with the relevant SFPA partner countries, at the upcoming Joint Committee meetings.

I thank you again for having extensively debated this document and I hope that we will be able to continue the discussion in forthcoming meetings.

I invite you to contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273) should you have any further question.

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

