

BS RAC / Pelagic RAC / NWWRAC /
SWW RAC / NSRAC / Med RAC

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 19 February 2010

Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend the Seminar on "**Fisheries Agreements**" to be organized jointly by the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Food of the Canary Islands and the LDRAC in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, on March 18, 2010 in the framework of the program of the Spanish Presidency of the EU.

The Seminar will be divided into two parts, as explained below.

The morning session will focus on three sets of presentations. The Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Fisheries will be the first to take the floor to address the subject of good governance in the context of the Lisbon Treaty. Then we will have the chance to listen to an international expert from the Institute for Security Studies, who will present a report on transparency in West Africa Fisheries Agreements. After the subsequent Q&A session, the Spanish Administration (as Presidency-in-turn of the EU) and the European Commission will analyze the different aspects of Fisheries Agreements, including their evolution. Lastly, representatives from the Community sector, third countries and NGOs will make their contributions.

During the afternoon session, three workshops will be held in parallel. Conclusions from the different workshops will be then presented by the rapporteurs, who will engage with attendees in an open debate on the future of Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs).

All of the above is described in the Seminar's draft agenda, which we attach hereto.

This Seminar aims to serve as a meeting point for all stakeholders interested in FPAs.

Lastly, if you wish to participate in the event, we kindly request you to confirm your attendance at your earliest convenience.

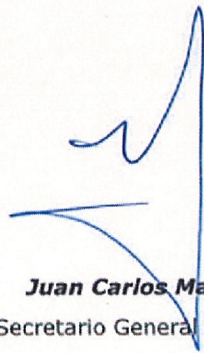
We are looking forward to meeting you in Las Palmas.

Yours sincerely,




Pilar Merino

Consejera de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentación
del Gobierno de Canarias



Juan Carlos Martín
Secretario General del Mar
Ministerio de Medioambiente,
Medio Rural y Marino



Antonio Cabral
Presidente del LDRAC