

NWWRAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dublin, 28 October 2009

Review of the functioning of the RACs

DG MARE – European Commission

Background

Council Decision 585/2004 - Review due for 2007 but delayed by one year

June 2008: Commission Communication on the functioning of the RACs

Sent for consultation

Contribution received: SWWWRAC, PELRAC, NWWWRAC, NSRAC, some Member States and the European Parliament

// Evaluation of ACFA

Analysis

NWWRAC contribution was very clear, detailed and argued.

We made a synthesis of all the comments received and identified 3 types of actions: ST / MT and LT.

Short term actions

- **Several comments concern the consultation process -> need to improve procedures**
 - To better define target groups to avoid overlaps between ACFA and RACs.
 - To associate RACs in the preparation of LTMP at an early stage (impact assessment)
-> pre-identification of options, ToR for ICES / STECF, invitation to scientific working groups
= iterative process
But need for « referents » within the RACs

Short term actions

- To apply systematically the minimum standards for all written consultation: 8 weeks, translation into working languages, etc.
- To detail replies
- To organise debriefing meetings with RACs
- All recommendations and replies from the Commission will be available on the Stakeholder forum

Short term actions

- Need for improved coordination among RACs (and with ACFA) and increased visibility -> Stakeholder tool and revamping of the Commission's website
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/iwt/taxonomy/term/139>
- Develop experience sharing and provide guidelines on practical issues (cf adhesion of new members etc)

Medium term actions

- Overall support for the proposals made by the Commission concerning the modification of the Council Decision 585/2004 (composition of the GA, etc)
- Need for clarification of some provisions: definitions, adhesion procedure, observer status for the EP, mention of the chairman fees in annex 2 etc
- Limits:
 - Long procedure. Possible overlap with discussions that will take place in the framework of the CFP reform.
 - Impossible to deviate from the Community Financial Regulation (e.g. operational grants are annual).

Medium term actions

- In the context of the "Interim evaluation report" of the Council Regulation No 861/2006, the Commission raised several issues concerning the financing framework of the RACs i.e. Commission and MS support, harmonisation of Membership fees, etc.

Long term actions

- Reform of the CFP Governance:
ACFA / RACs, role of the advisory bodies,
regionalisation, responsibility of the
Industry etc
- // corresponding financial framework

Calendar CFP reform

- Until the end of December - Consultation
- Spring 2010 - Analysis of the contributions received and launch of the Impact assessment
- End 2010 - Commission proposal
- 2011 - Discussion in Council and EP
- Adoption by end 2012