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EFCA's Administrative Board issues recommendations for the next five years

The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Administrative Board has met today and has issued recommendations on the way forward of the Agency for the next five year period.

This meeting of the Administrative Board was preceded by a seminar open to EFCA'S stakeholders dedicated to the outcomes of the second five year independent external evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) carried out in accordance with Article 39 of the EFCA founding regulation.

Since 2012 the European Fisheries Control implemented its mission and tasks of EFCA facing new requirements as the new features of the Common Fisheries Policy or the EU Coast Guard initiative more recently.

The evaluation main findings were presented during the seminar through three round tables: governance, European waters and international dimension which gave the opportunity to the Administrative Board members and stakeholders to analyse and reflect on the main findings of the evaluation report

Today, the EFCA Administrative Board issues the following :



Administrative Board's recommendations

The Administrative Board welcomes the report on the Five-year Independent External Evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and acknowledges its overall positive assessment and the recommendations made.

The Administrative Board issues the following recommendations:

Regulation (EC) No 768/2005

1. Whilst most of the suggestions made in the evaluation report can be implemented within the current legal framework, reflections could usefully begin on a review of the above Regulation, taking into account, among others, the following elements:

- a review of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (Control Regulation);
- the alignment of EFCA's mission and tasks with recent and possible future developments in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), notably the landing obligation, regionalisation, measures to combat IUU fishing and the external dimension of the CFP.

EFCA's working practices

2. EFCA should further develop e-learning; facilitate and promote the use of core curricula by the Member States and support the creation and implementation of a sector-specific qualification framework for fisheries inspectors.

3. EFCA should contribute to the further harmonisation of control methods, procedures and minimum inspection standards.

4. Ways should be explored to extend Joint Deployment Plans in contexts wider than applied currently.

5. A reflection should be promoted on how to plan EFCA's involvement in the international dimension in relation to its mission and tasks.

6. The functioning of the Administrative Board should be further enhanced to actively support the work of EFCA. The Administrative Board should in particular focus more on strategic issues and EFCA should assist new Board Members to facilitate their integration.

7. There should be better interaction between the Administrative Board and the Advisory Board.

8. EFCA should further enhance cooperation and exchange of best practices with other EU agencies, in particular with EMSA and FRONTEX under the tripartite working arrangement.

9. There should be better methodologies for measuring the added value and the impact of EFCA activities, using a result-based approach and leading to a small number of effective strategic Key Performance Indicators.

10. EFCA should continue to enhance gender balance.

11. EFCA should develop communication actions to further reach out to stakeholders, including through dialogues.

