**ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE procedure – First reading**

**Follow up to the European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea**

(Multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea)

**1. Rapporteur:** Clara Eugenia AGUILERA GARCÍA (S&D / ES)

**2. Reference numbers:** 2018/0050 (COD) / A8-0005/2019 / P8\_TA-PROV(2019)0344

**3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 4 April 2019

**4. Legal basis:** Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

**5. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Fisheries (PECH)

**6. Commission's position:** Accepts all amendments. The Commission tabled the following statements:

“**1.** **Statement of the Commission on ‘best available scientific advice’:**

As regards ‘best available scientific advice’, the Commission underlines that the current practice is to accept only the scientific advice issued or reviewed by an independent scientific body recognised at Union or international level, such as the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) or the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

The Commission could explore the possibility to propose in the future a definition of ‘best available scientific advice’.”

“**2. Statement of the Commission on the amendment of Annex I of the multi-annual plan (inclusion of depth intervals as a criterion for the segmentation of the fishing effort):**

In the context of the evaluation of the plan, five years after its entry into force, different scenarios could be envisaged for its revision, including the introduction in Annex I of other criteria designing the effort segmentation, such as depth intervals for the stocks concerned stipulated in Article 7(1) and the prohibition to increase capacity stipulated in Article 9(5) of the plan. Any such revision will depend on the best available scientific advice.”

“**3. Statement of the Commission on regional cooperation:**

The Commission will, on behalf of the Member States, continue its efforts in order to adopt conservation measures within the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in order to ensure the sustainable exploitation of shared stocks in the Mediterranean, in accordance with the MedFish4Ever Declaration of 2017.”