



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

### Twenty-ninth Session

Rome, Italy, 21-25 February 2005

### HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSION

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Article II (11) of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) states that: “*The seat of the Commission shall be the headquarters of FAO in Rome, or such other location as may be determined by the Commission*”. Over the last decade, some Members of the Commission have in fact expressed their willingness to host the seat of GFCM. Following entry into force, in April 2004, of an autonomous budget for the Commission, the matter was addressed by the Extraordinary Session of the GFCM (Malta, 19-23 July 2004). A standard procedure, including the criteria for the selection of the Headquarters of the Commission was agreed upon and, is attached as Appendix I to the Report of the Session (document GFCM/XIX.2005/Inf.5).

2. This document summarizes the course of action taken to implement the above-mentioned procedure. In this regard, it is recalled that the basic criteria agreed upon by the Commission was set up primarily to ensure that “cost-effectiveness” was taken into account when considering the functioning of the seat of the GFCM and its Secretariat.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

3. At its 2004 Extraordinary Session, the Commission noted the presentations made by the delegations which announced and reiterated their respective candidature to host the headquarters of the Commission at that time, it was decided that all applications in this respect should be submitted to FAO prior to 30 September 2004. These applications were to contain the information specified in the criteria and considerations retained.

4. Three applications were received in FAO prior to the deadline, i.e. from Italy (to be based in Rome), Malta (to be based in Fort St. Thomas), and Spain (to be based in Malaga). As stipulated in the adopted procedure, FAO circulated a copy of these applications and related files to all GFCM Members.

5. The governments interested in hosting the Commission might be requested to provide justification to host the headquarters in their respective countries, including full details of the facilities, services and equipment, free of charge, to the Commission.

6. In the event that a decision is not reached by consensus, the applicable procedures are set out in document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf. 11 entitled "*Information note on the procedures for the determination of the headquarters of the Commission and the selection of the Executive Secretary*".

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

7. The Commission is invited to review the three candidatures for hosting the Headquarters of the Commission taking into account the general principles, criteria and considerations agreed upon. In so doing so, the Commission may wish to invite concerned governments to make a case for justifying their proposal.

8. The Commission is further invited to take a decision on its Headquarters.