

MINUTES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 23 May 2018
16:30-18:30
Leopold Hotel Brussels EU
Rue du Luxembourg 35-1050 Bruxelles

Welcome from the Chair

The Chair, Mr Guus Pastoor, welcomed those present.

Adoption minutes last meeting (26.09.18)

The minutes of the last meeting (26.09.2017) were formally adopted.

Keynote Speech Mr Bernhard Friess, Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, DG MARE

Mr Friess started his intervention stressing the relevance of the work of the MAC and the good prospects of the market of fisheries and aquaculture products. He announced the publication of an economic report on the blue economy in the following weeks, which analyses the performance of the blue economy on a 10 year basis. The outcomes of this report are positive, showing an improvement of the sustainability of the business. It also shows a huge potential in the seafood production to be one of the most sustainable ways to feed the world population.

On behalf of DG MARE, Mr Friess invited the MAC to come back with input on the following issues:

- Marketing Standards Framework: input from stakeholders is crucial to understand whether these are performing well.
- Enforcement of the market intelligence activities: the European Commission (COM) requested a written advice from the Advisory Council on EUMOFA.
- Market transparency: the COM launched during the Seafood Expo Global an online system on commercial designations authorised in Member States (MS). The MAC was invited to test the system and to come back with feedback of possible inaccuracies/things to improve.

Other issues addressed, which will be discussed during the next WG 3 (24.05.2018) are dual quality food issue; the role of ecolabels in terms of market access and how voluntary information works when provided to consumers.

The Chair thanked Mr Friess for his words and highlighted the importance of looking at the way forward facing the challenges. The blue economy will be discussed in the future meetings of the MAC.

Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V., regarding the dual quality food, stressed that the issue are the different testing methodologies used in different countries, rather than a different composition / content of the seafood products.

CEP welcomed the positive notes made by the COM and stated that if the stocks are properly managed they will bring bigger benefits for all the value chain. He expressed some reservations on the concepts of market intelligence and transparency, and how well these two work together.

LIFE stressed the need for more analysis in deciding which production systems will be promoted, both in aquaculture and catching sector. The space for fishing/farming is being closed down in favour of other activities/interests not so sustainable in the long term.

Fiskbranschens Riksforbund stressed the importance of addressing new legislation taking into account how it will impact the local value chain. He asked Commission whether in implementing the new control regulation the aim will be to have the same traceability system around the EU or should each MS reach the target, regardless of the traceability system used.

COM agreed with the possibility having bigger benefits for the sector as fisheries is indeed a resource that can improve if properly managed. With regards to market transparency and the tool before mentioned, it responded to an analysis during the reform of the CFP in which the COM had identified a failure in the supply side. Responding to LIFE, the sustainability of small scale fisheries activities can also be improved; sustainability should be the driver for every actor in the sector. He did not see the use of marine areas for multiple purposes as negative per se. With regards to the control regulation, it is up to MS to decide how they will spend the funds allocated based on their analysis and needs, therefore the COM does not impose anything on them on how to implement their traceability system.

Memberships & elections

- Endorsement of new members

EJF was accepted as a member by the ExCom following article 28 of the Statutes the 22 December 2017. The GA endorsed this decision.

- Endorsement of EJF's Executive Committee seat

The General Assembly validated EJF as a member of the Executive Committee.

- Observer status

The COM informed the Secretariat that public and semi-public bodies are not eligible for membership to the Advisory Councils (ACs), as this could give a preferential access to a Member State. For this reason, the MAC invited Seafish, as a semi-public body, to step down from their membership.

The Chair thanked Seafish their contribution and input, and invited them to participate as an active observer. Seafish accepted this offer and will continue collaborating with the MAC.

Chair WG3: Endorsement of candidate

On the 21 March, Agnes Lisik resigned from her role as Chair of WG3 and put forward the candidature of Georg Werner, from EJF, as her substitute for the rest of the term (January 2020). The General Assembly endorsed the proposal.

Approval of

- Budgets and work programme Year 3 (2018-2019)
- Accounts year 2

The General Assembly adopted the documents.

Performance of the MAC

The Chair summarised what was discussed during the last Executive Committee (23.05.2017) in this regard. He explained the changes adopted with regards to the Rules of procedure of adoption of MAC advices and stressed that the written procedure should be an exception. He mentioned the importance of delivering output and the need to count on active participation of all members.

ADEPALE stated that there is a need to discuss communication and coordination with other ACs when it comes to topics falling under the scope of the MAC. This is the case of the opinion on labelling of white tuna prepared by the SWWAC.

In this regard EMPA suggested a coordination MAC-AAC on the strategy of micro plastics and to discuss the procedure to present drafts to other ACs.

The COM informed that it is up to ACs too coordinate with other councils.

The Chair stated that this issue will be discussed during the next InterAC meeting.

KFO explained that in similar cases, normally ACs step down from issues under the remit of other ACs respecting the scope Market issues should be dealt with in the MAC.

End of the meeting

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| NAME | | ORGANISATION |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Agnes | Lisik | OCEANA |
| Alexandre | Rodriguez | LDAC |
| Andrew | Kuyk | CEP |
| Arnault | Chaperon | FEAP |
| Aurelio | Bilbao | OPESCAYA |
| Aurora | De Blas | Conxemar |
| Bjorn | Stockhausen | Seas at Risk |
| Brian | O Riordan | LIFE |
| Bruno | Guillaumie | EMPA |
| Christine | Absil | Good Fish Foundation |
| Christophe | Vande Weyer | European Commission |
| Claudia | Orlandini | LIFE |
| Claudia | Vinci | AIPCE |
| Cristina | Fernandez | Seafish |
| Daniel | Voces | Europeche |
| Eduardo | Miguez Lopez | Puerto Celeiro |
| Elena | Ghezzi | Copa-Cogeca |
| Emiel | Brouckaert | EAPO |
| Frangiskos | Nikolian | European Commission |
| Georg | Werner | EJF |
| Guus | Pastoor | AIPCE |
| Hans | Nieuwenhuis | MSC |
| Hector | Villa | Permanent Representation of Spain |
| Hugo | Boyle | ISEFPOv (Irish South & East Fish Producer's Organisation) |
| Jean-Marie | Robert | Les pecheurs de bretagne |
| Jose Basilio | Otero Rodriguez | Federación Pescadores de Lugo |
| Juan | Maneiro | Conxemar |
| Katarina | SIPIC | Conxemar |
| Krishan | Kent | Fiskbranschens Riksforbund |
| Lorcán | Ó Cinnéide | IFPEA |
| Maria | Aira | MAC |
| Maria Luisa | Alvarez | FEDEPESCA |
| Matthias | Keller | Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V. |
| Michel | Claes | ETF |
| Pascale | Colson | European Commission |
| Patrick | Murphy | Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation, CLG (IS&WFPO, CLG) |
| Paul | McDonald | Scottish Fishermen's Organisation |
| Pierre | Commere | ADEPALE |
| Pim | Visser | VisNed |

| | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Richard | Curtin | BIM |
| Roberto Carlos | Alonso | Eurothon |
| Romans | Vorss | FRUCOM |
| Rosalie | Tukker | Europeche |
| Sandra | Sanmartin | MAC |
| Sean | O'Donoghue | KFO |
| Sergio | Lopez | OPP Lugo |
| Thomas | Kruse | Danish Fishermen PO |

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