

Management Team Meeting Minutes

Thursday 16 May 2019
Avenue de Cortenbergh 168,
1000 Brussels

Attendees:

- Guus Pastoor, MAC Chair
- Christien Absil, MAC Vice-Chair
- Sean O'Donoghue, WG1 Chair
- Andrew Kuyk, WG2 Chair
- Georg Werner, WG3 Chair
- Konstantinos Kalamantis, Executive Secretary

Issues discussed:

1. Relation with the European Commission

The Management Team discussed the need to improve the relationship with the European Commission, particularly with Unit A4 - Economic Analysis, Markets and Impact Assessment. It was recognised that the MAC should strive to produce advices in a timely manner.

The MAC should also strive to improve the organisation of its internal work. The MAC is different from other ACs, since there are divisions among various industries, so, by nature, the discussions are difficult. Therefore, progress is needed to improve dialogue. There are also external factors to be considered, such as the end of the Commission's term and Brexit, which provide additional uncertainty.

In relation to the MAC's work programme and advices, it is important that the MAC answers to the Commission's questions. Once these have been answered, the MAC can have more freedom to consider other topics.

2. WG2

- **Focus Group on Level Playing Field:**

Questions to be dealt with at the WG2 meeting:

- Is there active discrimination created by EU legislation?



- Do distortion arise because of unequal implementation among Member States?

There is no draft yet that can be forwarded to the WG. It is necessary to identify the major points for the FG to focus on.

- **Trade agreements:**

It would be beneficial for the MAC to have a view on draft trade agreements. It is necessary to examine the impact of FTAs on prices, on employment, among other issues.

- **EUMOFA:**

It was concluded that EUMOFA is not widely used among the MAC members.

3. WG1

- **Marketing standards:**

The Management Team discussed the Commission's dissatisfaction with the lack of a MAC advice on processed fish products. The Team considered that it would be prudent to wait for the Commission's external study on the matter.

- **STECF:**

The Commission's views are that the MAC has no say on what the Commission requests STECF. This is not the issue for the MAC. The MAC should simply check with the Commission if it would be possible to attend as an observer.

- **EUMOFA:**

There are a number of recommendations being developed by the MAC, which will be presented to the WG.

4. WG3

- **Plastics and Ecolabels**

The MAC wishes to put this issue forward. Workshops on these topics to be organized in October-November 2019. Feedback from the WG is needed on the content.

On Ecolabels, the Commission's intentions are not fully clear, including on the need for the MAC's advice. It would be good to present a working paper / terms of reference to the Commission.



- **Consumer Information Focus Group**

There was good progress on this topic. The Commission showed interest in the MAC's work. In June there is another meeting of the FG.

This topic could be integrated for next year's programme.

- **Contaminants**

There is no Commission representative to discuss the topic at the WG3 meeting. Yet this is a very significant issue. There is no Commission official proposal yet. It would be important to have a Commission at the next meeting to present current internal discussions and proposals.

- **Caviar**

To be discussed under AOB.

