



Market Advisory Council

Management Team Meeting

Minutes

Thursday 7 May 2020

Webex meeting

Attendees:

- Guus Pastoor, MAC Chair
- Christien Absil, MAC Vice-Chair
- Sean O'Donoghue, MAC Vice-Chair & WG1 Chair
- Andrew Kuyk, WG2 Chair
- Benoît Thomassen, WG3 Chair
- Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General

Issues discussed:

1. Interpretation solutions for online meetings

The Secretary General informed the Management Team of different service providers for online interpretation platforms. The Secretary General had meetings and tests scheduled with Interactio, OnCall, and Voiceboxer. There were several options and combinations available, including possibly working with the usual team of interpreters and renting a hub to ensure better sound quality. The Management Team agreed that the Secretariat should select the most appropriate option and that the Chairs would test the system beforehand.

The Secretary General also informed the Management Team that the different AC Secretariats had jointly discussed this issue. Several ACs will be moving ahead with online meetings with interpretation. The Management Team agreed that the meetings should not be over 2h30 each, in order to ensure the full attention of the members.

2. Agenda items for next meetings

- Working Group 2

Brexit: The Management Team agreed that it was too early to initiate the discussions in the MAC. It would be more appropriate after the end of June.

ATQs: The Management Team agreed that it was important to have a preliminary discussion with a factual basis, including preparatory work by the Commission and previous evaluations. WG1 Chair emphasised the importance of a holistic view that





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takes into account GSP and EEA. WG2 Chair highlighted the importance of analysing the price impacts, in the next months, in the food market. LDAC is also preparing an advice on ATQs. The Secretary General will request a presentation by the Commission at the next WG2 meeting on the previous regulations, evaluations, information and timeline, and suggestions on how the MAC could contribute.

Trade: An exchange of views should take place.

- **Working Group 3**

Plastics: The Secretary General informed the Management Team of the initiatives taken by different ACs on this topic, particularly the development of advices by the NWWAC and the NSAC. The Secretary General also informed that the MAC could develop its own advice or do a joint advice with the other ACs. WG1 Chair suggested the organisation of a second workshop by the MAC, particularly focusing on key objectives, such as packaging and consumer information. The Management Team agreed that it was important to look at the recommendations from the last workshop, in order to generate ideas and priorities, in the preparation of an advice by the MAC. The Secretary General highlighted the importance of moving ahead with the development of an advice, as determined by the Work Programme for Year 4, and suggested inviting experts for specific relevant topics for the next WG3 meetings.

Nutritional labelling & labelling of vegetarian and vegan products: The Management Team agreed that these topics should be on the agenda for the next WG3 meeting.

Workshop on Ecolabels and Certification Schemes: The Management Team agreed that the workshop should be changed to a series of webinars to organise before the Summer break. The Secretary General will assess the possible dates and prepare an initial draft agenda.

- **Working Group 1**

Marketing Standards: The Management Team agreed that it should be on the agenda of the next WG1 meeting.

Landing Obligation: The Management Team agreed that it was important to follow-up on the letter sent to the Commission.

EMFF: WG1 Chair emphasised the importance of this topics taking into account the development of amendments by the co-legislators.

STECF: WG1 Chair and the Secretary General would be holding an online meeting with Ms Natacha Carvalho (JRC, STECF). There are issues with the price structure in





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the annual reports, since these do not reflect the actual sales data.

- **Executive Committee**

Farm to Fork strategy: The Management Team agreed that it would be important to have a presentation by the Commission. The MAC can then determine priorities and divide the work by the WGs.

COVID-19: The Management Team agreed that it would be important to have a presentation by the Commission on the impact and the measures taken. The MAC can exchange on to contribute towards solutions.

Focus Groups: The Management Team agreed that the Executive Committee should hold a discussion to clarify the role of the Focus Groups.

Work Programme: The Secretary General suggested holding another Executive Committee meeting dedicated to the Work Programme of Year 5, the next annual budget, and the Secretariat's tender. This would allow the definition of priorities under the Farm to Fork strategy and a reply from the Commission on the MAC's letter opposing the announced future allocation of financial resources to the ACs.

3. Dates of next meetings

The Management Team agreed on the following dates:

- Executive Committee – Friday, 29 May, morning
- WG1 – Tuesday, 2 June, afternoon
- WG2 – Wednesday, 3 June, morning

The date of 10 June was suggested for WG3, depending on the availability of WG3 Chair. (At a later date, WG3 Chair decided on 4 June)

4. Europêche's concerns regarding the procedure on the consumer information file

The Management Team agreed that the Secretariat respected the rules of procedure, plus that a message should be sent to the members outlining the rules of the focus groups and that these are not decision-making bodies. The Management Team also agreed that the Secretariat should stop replying to the various email messages. It would be more appropriate to discuss the topic at the next meeting.

The Management Team agreed that WG3 should focus on the final recommendations and on finding a consensus, while identifying the different positions of the members.

