

Management Team Meeting Minutes

Monday 25 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 that the selected platform for the 29 May – 4 June meeting was Interactio, through the usual team of interpreters.

2. Agenda items for next meetings

- **Executive Committee**

Future allocation of funds to the Advisory Councils: The Management Team expressed concern regarding the potential precedent and the procedure followed by the European Commission.

H2020 Project: TRACTION - Micro- and nano-plastics in our environment: Understanding exposures and impacts on human health (Servicio Galego de Saúde): The MAC Chair suggested that, if the project is approved, it would be relevant to hold a presentation about it at a future meeting.

COVID-19 Pandemic: The Management Team debated how the MAC could approach this topic. It is important to take note of the members' views and consider actions. The item was included in the agenda of WG1, but should also be considered as an AOB in the other WGs.

EFCA: The Secretary General explained that EFCA was developing terms of reference to improve the functioning of their Advisory Board. EFCA was open to suggestions from the ACs.



Relationship between Focus Groups, Working Groups, and Executive Committee: The role of the Management Team was discussed, particularly that it is recognised in the Work Programme, but that it does not replace the Executive Committee or take official decisions. It was highlighted the connection of the Management Team with the legal responsibility of the MAC as a registered Belgian association.

In relation to the advice on the inception impact assessment on the marketing standards framework, the MAC Chair commented that the use of the written procedure is not always helpful to reach consensus. WG1 Chair expressed concern regarding the impact of fundamental changes of position by members between the WG's level and the ExCom. The MAC Vice-Chair highlighted that the time period between the FG and the WG had been limited and suggested the organisation of more online WG meetings before putting drafts forward to the ExCom. The MAC Chair agreed that there should be more WG meetings, while FGs should be reserved for more technical and detailed questions.

- **Working Group 1**

COVID-19 Pandemic: The Management Team discussed the importance of collectively adding value to the discussions.

STECF: Notes by Secretariat on the exchange with the JRC focal points were sent to the WG1 members. Therefore, WG1 should discuss how to bring the proposed action points to fruition.

Marketing Standards: The Management Team discussed if the MAC's contribution to the future Commission's public consultation should be prepared more by the FG or WG1.

EUMOFA: WG1 Chair highlighted that the advice was prepared before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, so it was important to consider potential specificities connected to the sanitary crisis.

- **Working Group 2**

STECF's The EU Fish Processing Sector Economic Report 2019: WG2 Chair mentioned that the presentation could already be outdated due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATQs: WG2 Chair wondered if the circumstances had substantially changed since the previous Council Regulation. A political discussion would lead to different and specific



views. Issues of principle could be discussed, but it would be difficult to organise detailed work without a legislative proposal, plus there are timeline issues. The MAC Chair highlighted that the MAC will be asked to endorse positions from other ACs, such as LDAC. It could be difficult for the MAC to have a FG on ATQs. WG1 emphasised that the key question is the discussion of the factual situation. It is important to have a presentation by the Commission as a starting point.

- **Working Group 3**

Consumer Information: WG3 Chair highlighted that this topic would be discussed first to advance as much as possible, but that the schedule would be respected to allow time for the other agenda items.

3. Dates of next meetings

The Management Team highlighted the importance of sending reminders for registration.

