

Management Team Meeting Minutes

Monday, 21 September 2020

Zoom online meeting

Attendees:

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

Issues discussed:

1. Working Group 1

- **COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Management Team discussed the possibility of inviting the Head of Unit of MARE.A.4 to discuss ongoing measures and impacts connected to COVID-19. WG1 Chair emphasised the importance of discussing measures to reboot the sector.

2. Working Group 2

- **Trade Policy Instruments**

The Management Team discussed the possibility of establishing a Focus Group on Trade. WG2 Chair emphasised the importance of Terms of Reference covering supply and trade policy instruments as delivery mechanisms. MAC Chair highlighted the importance of mapping out the work, so that the Terms of Reference are not too general. The Secretary General suggested that the work should focus on trade policy instruments in general, inspired by DG TRADE's trade policy review, plus separate advices dedicated to specific trade negotiations. MAC Chair stressed that the Chairperson should be neutral. MAC Vice-Chair and WG1 Chair agreed and suggested that it could be someone from academia. In terms of timing, the Management Team considered that, taking into account Brexit, it could be more appropriate for the FG on Trade to start working only at the beginning of next year.



- **Control Regulation**

WG2 Chair presented his views on the exchange of views MEP Clara Aguilera and a possible way forward. WG2 Chair suggested that the MAC should wait for the position of the EP PECH Committee. WG1 agreed with the suggestion, since the MAC's recommendations remain valid. WG2 Chair highlighted that the only issue raised that the MAC did not adopt a specific position was on the charitable use of discards from the landing obligation.

- **IUU Regulation**

The Management Team noted that there was wide support for the recommendations on the draft advice on Import Control Schemes in Major Market States, so the draft would likely be approved.

3. Working Group 3

- **Voluntary Sustainability Claims on Seafood Products**

The Management Team welcomed the participation by Prof. Dr. Simon Bush, Professor and Chair of Environmental Policy, Wageningen University.

- **Interim Chair**

Due to unavailability of WG3 Chair and WG3 Vice-Chair, the Management discussed a possible replacement to chair the 23 September meeting.

4. General Assembly

- **Grant Agreement for Year 5 (2020-2021)**

Taking into account the likely budget underspending due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Management Team discussed the possibility of amending the budget to move funding from the organisation of meetings towards an update of the MAC's website.

5. Executive Committee

- **Farm to Fork Strategy**

The Management Team discussed the importance of matching the priorities identified with the relevant WGs.



- **NGO's Letter to DG MARE on "Participation of NGOs in Advisory Councils"**

The Secretary General provided an overview of reactions in other ACs. WG Vice-Chair highlighted the seriousness of the situation, even though the issues raised in the letter were not applicable to the MAC. The Management Team discussed possible reaction by the MAC.

- **MAC's Secretariat (2020-2023)**

MAC Chair informed that the only tender submission was by EBCD. MAC Chair and WG1 Chair expressed satisfaction with the work of the Secretariat.

6. Dates of next meetings

The Management Team discussed the possibility of WG meetings at the end of November.

