

Management Team Meeting Minutes

Friday, 20 November 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
- Benoît Thomassen, WG3 Chair
- Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General

Issues discussed:

1. Inter-AC meeting

- **Agenda items**

The Management Team drew attention to the importance of discussing Brexit at the next Inter-AC meeting. For the preparatory meeting of AC Secretariats and Chairs, the Management Team suggested as topics: Brexit (work/advice planned by other ACS) and underspending due to COVID-19 (new priorities and concerns regarding future financial allocations).

2. Organisation of online meetings

- **Timing**

The Management Team agreed that the Secretariat should aim to reduce the time of the online meetings and try to include a social element. Working Group meetings should be scheduled in different days. There should not be too many documents at the same meeting.



3. Working Group 1

- **COVID-19 Pandemic**

WG1 Chair emphasised that it would be the key item of the next WG1 meeting. A draft has been prepared. The WG will analyse every paragraph of the draft. Once WG1 agrees, the draft could be put forward to the Executive Committee under ordinary written procedure.

- **Marketing Standards**

MAC Vice-Chair drew attention to the public consultation launched by the European Commission. WG1 Chair expressed his belief that individual contributions to the consultation by the members would be a better approach than trying to draft a joint MAC contribution.

- **Sustainable Blue Economy**

WG1 Chair asked the Secretariat to contact the MAC members participating in the Joint Advice Drafting Group, in order for them to present their work at the next WG1 meeting. WG1 Chair suggested adoption of the draft through urgent written procedure, taking into account the timing of the Commission's consultation.

4. Working Group 2

- **Trade**

WG2 Chair explained that bilateral meeting with the Commission to discuss draft ToR for the FG on Trade had not been possible. Draft ToR had been prepared. These include broad topics, in order to have specific responses from the members. MAC Chair wondered about how the final draft would be achieved, highlighting the difficulty in being inclusive of the membership. The FG should not undertake too much work, since the WG is more inclusive. WG1 Chair emphasised the importance of the topic, adding that the FG should factually look into the issue of ATQs and GSP.

WG2 Chair stated that the WG would discuss the broader issues. On particular trade agreements, members might have different interests. Furthermore, in some cases, only a few members will be interested in a certain trade agreement, so it is necessary to determine if the MAC should take action. MAC Vice-Chair highlighted the increasing



relevance of labour in trade topics, plus the difficulty of being actively involved on these topics. MAC Chair suggested the development of an advice similar to a code for responsible sourcing. MAC Vice-Chair agreed that it could be a good basis. WG2 Chair proposed to hold a general discussion in the WG, while aiming to keep the FG's work more specific. It is also important to exchange views with DG MARE on the ToR.

- **Brexit**

WG2 Chair explained that a presentation by SEAFISH would take place at the next meeting. WG1 Chair recognised the relevance of the presentation, adding that it was important to also know the Commission's perspective.

