

## Management Team Meeting Minutes

Friday, 22 January 2021

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 (18 January 2021)

- **Debriefing**

Secretary General provided an overview of the meeting, highlighting the supportive introductory speech of the DG MARE Director-General. The upcoming changes to the functioning of the Advisory Councils are still unclear, so it is important to discuss these amongst the MAC.

MAC Chair noted that there were no significant changes mentioned in the Commission's paper. There were also no references to Brexit and the clarification of memberships. MAC Vice-Chair asked if there were any developments on the concerns of the NGOs. MAC Chair stated that there was a lack of clear points from the NGOs. MAC Vice-Chair stated that it is mostly about procedures. MAC Chair suggested to discuss this point at the next ExCom meeting.

#### 2. Working Group 2

- **Initial Focus Group on Trade**

The Management Team discussed the importance of a knowledgeable Chair for the FG, adding that, at the WG2 meeting, an attempt could be made to select a Chair.



- **Contingency Plan for Ensuring Food Supply and Food Security**

The Management Team agreed on the importance of this initiative for the fishery and aquaculture products sector.

### 3. Working Group 1

- **Data Collection Framework & Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet**

WG1 Chair emphasised the high importance of these agenda items. These could be an opportunity to highlight some data issues identified by the MAC.

- **COVID-19**

WG1 Chair suggested inviting the Head of Unit of MARE A4 to provide an initial reaction to the adopted MAC advice.

- **Technical Measures Regulation**

WG1 Chair highlighted that the Commission's questionnaire was very much directed at the catching sector, so the relevance for the MAC was quite limited.

- **Marketing Standards**

Secretary General explained that MARE A4 was available to make a presentation about the STECF EWG on incorporating sustainability aspects, but that they would not go into the substance of the STECF EWG discussion before the report was officially adopted. MARE A4 agreed to recall the terms of reference and the composition of the group, plus to provide information on the marketing standards consultation activities, while avoiding going into the preliminary results. MAC Vice-Chair informed that she was a member of the STECF EWG, but could not provide information on the discussions. WG1 Chair emphasised the importance of a robust relationship with the Commission on this matter.

- **Biodiversity Strategy**

WG1 Chair underscored the need the centre discussions on the MAC's areas of competence. Secretary General explained that he had requested the NGO members preparing the draft to focus on market and trade issues.



#### 4. Working Group 3

- **Food Information to Consumers**

Secretary General informed that the replies to the Secretariat's questionnaire had been circulated. MAC Chair highlighted that, if there were diverging views amongst the membership, that was not a problem, as long as the arguments are presented. WG3 Chair highlighted that the advice would mention the different positions, if that was the case.

- **Voluntary Sustainability Claims on Seafood Products**

WG3 Chair emphasised the importance of moving forward with advice on this topic.

- **Food Contact Materials**

Secretary General explained that ANFACO-CECOPECA and FEDEPESCA expressed interest in the Commission's roadmap on the revision of EU rules on FCMs. The initiative is quite technical, so it was important to determine the interest amongst the rest of the membership.

- **Plant-based imitation seafood**

MAC Chair argued that it was important for the sector to be honest with the consumers through appropriate labelling, plus it was beneficial to analyse developments in the market. MAC Vice-Chair argued that discussions should not focus exclusively on labelling requirements, but also look at the opportunities and health benefits. Secretary General suggested that, taking into account the expected diverging views amongst the membership, the advice's recommendations could focus more on the need for studies on consumer attitudes and market developments. MAC Chair drew attention to the issue of labelling of mixed products. WG2 Chair highlighted that, in mixed products, seafood would be the most expensive ingredient, so its substitution would be a market opportunity. MAC Vice-Chair highlighted that the marketing should focus on enrichment and health.

