

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MARKET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday 17th of January 2017
10:30h – 13:00h

Business Europe – Europe Room, Av. de Cortenberg 168
1000 Brussels, Belgium

- **Welcome from the Chair**

The Chair, Mr Guus Pastoor, welcomed those present and informed that Vice Chair Christine Absil excused herself from being absent.

- **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted with no further comments.

- **Adoption of minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting (08.06.2016)**

The minutes were adopted with no further comments.

- **Adoption of new Work Programme and state of play of grant agreement**

The Chair informed attendees that the application to receive the grant from the Commission was launched in mid November and, if approved, all costs from that date including those from this meeting would be eligible.

The Commission took the floor to stress that they hope the grant agreement will be signed beginning of February.

Regarding the Work Programme, amendments and suggestions mainly on how to organise the work among the different working groups were made, based on the feedback that the Secretariat got from the Commission.

Several members (WWF, OCEANA, CEP, CFFA) expressed their concerns regarding IUU issues having been moved from WG2 to WG3.

There is an overlap between working groups and it was agreed that a distinction should be made between regulatory issues under IUU, which should be addressed under WG3, and effects of this regulation, which should be addressed under WG2.

This proposal was agreed by all members of the Excom.

Mr Alexandre Rodriguez, Executive Secretary of the Long Distance Advisory Council, observer at the MAC meetings, stressed the good collaboration that members of the LDAC have in building up advice for the Commission on IUU issues, and suggested to keep close contacts LDAC-MAC in order to produce, if needed, a joint advice common position.

Members agreed with Mr Alexandre Rodriguez and highlighted the importance of setting up collaborations between the MAC-LDAC working groups.

The two representatives from the aquaculture sector, Mr Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) and Mr Arnault Chaperon (FEAP), brought up the issue of topic overlapping between the MAC and the AAC regarding the level playing field and information to consumers.

The Chair agreed with this approach and highlighted the importance of the MAC focusing on elements affecting supply and markets, while other ACs will look into different aspects. Collaboration with other ACs so as to ensure the Commission will receive one single advice is fundamental. This will be reflected in the Work Programme.

- **Coffee break**
- **Endorsement of new members of the General Assembly**

Members on the list were officially endorsed.

The Chair gave a brief overview on what it was discussed during last InterAC Meeting- 5.12.2016 regarding the difficulties some ACs face when an organisation applies to be member of the Excom and neither the members of the 60% nor the members of the 40% agree in having them in their respective groups.

The Commission proposed that both the 60% and 40% groups vote for their own members, though this has not been yet formalised in an official communication.

The Commission stated that they have received the input requested from the Advisory Councils on this issue and they will come up with a proposal as soon as possible.

The elections to take place in the General Assembly will be done through a secret vote. EBCD will not have a vote due to its condition of Interim Secretariat.

The Secretariat will try to contact the consumers' associations who left the MAC, in an attempt to bring them on board since their input is of great importance for this AC.

- **Decision on the Secretariat**

It was agreed that EBCD will continue providing the interim secretariat until September, but the position will be opened up for tenders to participate in the selection process. This will be done in the upcoming months: the tender is expected to be drafted by the Chair and Vice Chairs and published in April. The new Secretariat would take over in September. EBCD would be paid as from November 2016 once the grant agreement is signed agreeing on the monthly amount of 6279 EUR.

- **AOB**

CFFA wanted to clarify future delegations from the MAC, so as to ensure both the 60% and 40% are represented.

The Chair stated that, whenever the MAC has to provide an opinion this has to be agreed in advance so the representatives follow a clear mandate.

Members agreed that this issue will be looked at in a case by case basis.

Regarding the issue of providing interpretation services during the meetings, it was stated that this is not yet foreseen given the restrictive budget of the MAC.

The Secretariat will check the availability of dates and will circulate the calendar of 2017 MAC meetings as soon as possible.

End of the meeting