



Workshop on Plastics

TERMS OF REFERENCE

May 2019

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Market Advisory Council

Overview

Among the impacts which human activity has had on our living planet, pollution from plastic waste has singularly caught the attention of both the public and policy-makers. The whole range of negative effects from long-living plastic components or broken down plastics in our ecosystems are still not fully understood. While the problem with plastics is first and foremost a land-based issue, it is well-documented that vast amounts end up in the oceans. Estimates suggest that at current trends, more plastic will be in the ocean by 2050 than fish. There is little doubt that actors in the seafood market are or will be in some way affected by plastics and the members of the Market Advisory Council have signalled their strong support to delve deeper into this topic through a Workshop.

Purpose of the workshop

To bring together members of the MAC and other Advisory Councils with experts and scientists to explore in both broader and greater detail the impact of plastics on fisheries and market actors. The Workshop is also to show that the MAC, and thus all actors along seafood supply chain, recognise the importance of plastics and take the issue seriously. With the help of experts and scientists on this topic, the Workshop is to be based on the facts and figures according to the latest research on plastics in the environment, and aims to also have a focus on and from a market perspective.

Proposed Outcomes

- To have, within the MAC and amongst its members as well as other Advisory Councils, a better and more informed level of understanding on the impact (environmental, human, economic, etc.) of plastics across the seafood supply chain
- To draft a document (the nature of which is to be decided, possibly in the form of a report of the workshop) with the purpose of summarising the outcomes of the Workshop, while also highlighting best practices for coping with and reducing plastics
- Suggested Workshop issues to be discussed:
 - The state-of-the-art of research on plastics in terms of:
 - Environmental pollution,
 - Human health aspects / Food safety issues,
 - Impact on marine organisms
 - Showcasing best-practice examples from seafood industry actors on reducing, replacing or avoiding plastics
 - Current alternatives and future projects to substitute the use of plastic in the seafood sector with less invasive materials or technologies (e.g. fishing gear)
 - Packaging – recycling solutions (e.g. from processing, retail)

Target Audience

- Members of the MAC as well as other relevant Advisory Councils
- European Commission and other relevant/interested (EU) institutions (e.g. EP)
- Experts and market stakeholders,

Schedule and Deadlines

- ❑ Terms of Reference to be adopted in May 2019 by Working Group 3
- ❑ Draft agenda and proposals for speakers to be developed by the chair of WG 3 with the help of the Executive Secretary, on the basis of the agreed Terms of Reference by mid-June 2019
- ❑ Tentative date for the Workshop: October 2019 – to be decided by May 2019 during Working Group 3
- ❑ Meeting Venue: Brussels or Amsterdam or Rotterdam.
[if Brussels, to check with Commission on the possibility of holding the workshop in a room a suitable room (Borschette/Charlemagne)]
- ❑ Initial contact with speakers: mid- to late June 2019
- ❑ Report of the workshop to be published in its final version by mid-November 2019.

Resources, inputs and external sources

Foreseen budget: 30.000 EUR

Possible in kind collaboration with Commission (venue, interpretation?) and other Advisory Councils