

General Assembly

Minutes

Tuesday, 20 September 2022 (13:30 – 16:45 CEST)

NH Brussels EU Berlaymont

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

Welcome from the Chair, Guus Pastoor

Click [here](#) to access the Chair's presentation.

Adoption of draft agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (16.09.21): adopted

European Commission's Priorities

- **Presentation of market priorities by Carmen Preising, Deputy Head of Cabinet, Cabinet of Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius (Environment, Ocean, Fisheries)**

Carmen Preising (European Commission) expressed her admiration towards the work produced by the MAC. Ms Preising recalled the broad context of the Commission's work: priorities have changed in 2019 with the European Green Deal, which has led to the publication of several important strategies (e.g., Farm to Fork, Biodiversity Strategy, Zero Pollution action plan). Although a lot has already been done on key priorities for fisheries and the environment, there is still work ahead, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war. Thus, Ms Preising called for the support of the Council and the Parliament. Due to the current context and the price increases, some people call for a moratorium on new legislation to avoid putting additional burden on the industry. However, the Commission believes that this crisis should not be used as a pretext to avoid action: a balance has to be found between the urgency measures and the necessity to continue delivering on the European Green Deal agenda, as the food sector depends on an intact and healthy nature.

Ms Preising emphasised the major role that oceans and the marine environment play into the European Green Deal, as they are key for climate change mitigation and adaptation while being much impacted at the same time. She acknowledged that oceans and blue foods are not included enough in the political agendas and called for the MAC members to continue raising awareness on this issue. The basis of all the Commission's blue foods-related policies is the will to ensure a good health of the stocks, while reducing the dependency of Europe on imports. In this context, the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy are aiming at changing the way EU citizens produce and consume. The priority for the Commission is to roll out the different initiatives coming from the Farm to Fork strategy. The main challenge is the development of sustainable aquaculture, which should be supported by the aquaculture guidelines and the Algae Strategy.



Ms Preising qualified the Framework for a Sustainable Food System as a “game changer”, as it will have an important impact on the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The impact assessment has been postponed to 2023, which will make it very difficult for the co-legislators to finish delivering on this initiative before the end of the Commission’s mandate. The Commission is looking for the best way to ensure coherence between all the initiatives, to avoid confusion for the consumer.

Lastly, Ms Preising mentioned the reports on the functioning of the CFP and of the CMO as well as the action plan to conserve fisheries resources and to protect marine ecosystems, saying that the Commission is still working on these files. On behalf of Commissioner Sinkevičius, she highlighted the importance of the Advisory Councils, and invited the members to suggest any possibility for improving their functioning.

- **Exchange of views**

The Chair highlighted that that, although the industry is most of the time willing to address the issue of sustainability, it does not have the means to implement such measures. The main challenge is to find how to cover the costs of sustainability.

Pim Visser (VisNed) underlined the importance of stakeholders’ engagement, stressing that it is the best remedy against populism. Mr Visser took the example of taxonomy, saying that fisheries stakeholders have been trying to get involved for years and have always been excluded. Mr Visser also called for a review of the CFP, notably to address the issue of the landing obligation.

Pedro Luis Casado López (OPP80) wondered about the Commission’s priority to reduce imports of fishing products, considering its recent Implementing act banning bottom fishing gears underneath 400 meters depth in 87 Vulnerable Marine Areas (VMEs). Mr Casado López explained that the industry was doing its best to improve sustainability by promoting energy efficiency methods and using more selective fishing gears. He added that such regulations were counterproductive. In his view, the lost production will be replaced by increased imports.

Vanya Vulperhorst (Oceana) expressed support towards more information for consumers and fairer prices for fishers through better marketing standards. Ms Vulperhorst recalled that fish products can have benefits for climate over meat products. Ms Vulperhorst asked about how it would ensure that the Sustainable Food Systems Framework initiative could be fit for purpose for the fisheries sector.

Patrick Murphy (IS&WFPO) expressed doubts regarding the scientific basis of the decision to close fishing areas below 400 meters depth. Mr Murphy stated that such a decision would have disastrous effects on fishers, despite the fact that they are trying their best to improve sustainability. Mr Murphy called for a European support for fishers, arguing that the price of fuel has been multiplied by four since he started fishing, while the price of fish stayed the same. He expressed his support towards environmental measures but underlined the fact that less and less young people are interested in fishing. He asked how the Commission could reverse this issue.

Sean O’Donoghue (KFO) asked how the size and quality criteria would fit in the marketing standards framework. In relation to the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis, Mr O’Donoghue recognised the



prompt and effective reaction of the Commission, but asked whether new energy measures would come forward in the next months. Mr O'Donogue underlined the excellent cooperation between the MAC and DG MARE but regretted that it is not the case with other DGs. He called for the support of DG MARE on that matter.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) expressed disappointment that the shellfish sector had not been mentioned by Ms Presiging. Mr Guillaumie recalled that the EU used to produce twice more molluscs forty years ago than presently. He called for a more comprehensive legislation, an ambitious CFP and an overall maritime strategy for Europe.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) underscored that the main challenge was ensuring a fair price for fisheries products, which can be done by raising awareness among consumers. Ms Álvarez Blanco explained that consumers are confused regarding the value and the price of seafood products. She expressed disappointment that, presently, fishers were making efforts to comply with the Regulation, but they were not rewarded, as consumers turn to cheaper and less sustainable products.

Carmen Preising (European Commission) explained that opinion polls show that, for fisheries and aquaculture products, consumers are willing to pay higher prices for sustainability. She recognised that the current context does not help consumers to choose sustainable products as they are more expensive, but she recalled that this crisis is temporary. In her view, much more should be done to advertise on the benefits of fisheries and aquaculture products.

Ms Preising called for the help of Advisory Councils to explain the policies of the Commission: the measures taken for sustainability are part of a transition that is needed. Representatives of the sector should better explain the purpose of the measures to stakeholders. The Commission takes stakeholders consultation seriously.

On VMEs, the Commission has the legal obligation to consider the latest advice every year: if the advice calls for a change or an adaptation, the Commission will follow it. Ms Preising underscored that science is one of the cornerstones of the Commission's policies. She acknowledged that the closure of these fishing areas to bottom fishing gears will have economic consequences, although the Commission was still waiting to receive the relevant figures from the Member States concerned, but she explained that the protection of VMEs is necessary to make sure these areas will not disappear, and to ensure the foundations for future fisheries. MAC members were once again called to make clear to stakeholders that the Commission does not want to push fishers out: Ms Preising emphasised that communication was key to ensure that everyone understands that the Commission is willing to ensure a sustainable future for fishers. EMFAF could be used to support fishers in this transition.

Ms Preising recognised that the Commission could include fisheries and aquaculture products more explicitly in its policies and communications. She encouraged the members to support and lobby other Commission services to reflect fisheries and aquaculture in the initiatives, especially DG SANTE.

Concerning taxonomy, Ms Preising recognised the importance of ensuring the presence of all stakeholders and affirmed that the Commission wants fisheries to be included. It is important for the Commission to receive data and input from stakeholders and Member States.



Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) added that his Unit, MARE A4, was monitoring the market to evaluate the impact of the crisis. Mr Nikolian recalled that, up to 2021, the sector was in a good situation regarding economic profits. Concerning the revision of the marketing standards framework, the evaluation showed gaps with the sustainability aspects in the value chain.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- **Presentation on 35th COFI Session (5-9 September 2022) and 2022 SOFIA Report by Marcio Castro de Souza, Senior Fishery Officer (Trade Issues), FAO**

Click [here](#) to access the presentation.

Marcio Castro de Souza (FAO) listed all the MAC topics discussed under the September 2022 meetings that were also of interest to the FAO:

- Initiative to ban products from forced labour: FAO has received a mandate to work on a guidance to the private sector, aiming at supporting it for compliance with the existing international legislation.
- Trade agreements and trade policy instruments: FAO will compile data on those from a fisheries and aquaculture perspective.
- WTO agreement on fisheries subsidies: FAO supports the WTO in the implementation of the agreement and will provide guiding assistance to countries.
- BBNJ: FAO is taking part in the discussions in New York.

Mr Castro de Souza presented the main elements of the 2022 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report (SOFIA), which gives a snapshot of the sector situation and raises currently discussed topics. In 2022, the production was constantly increasing, and the fisheries and aquaculture products continued to play a critical role in food systems. Aquaculture is seen as a potential answer to the increasing population growth and the demand for proteins in the world, even if there are still sustainability issues to be tackled. In many developing countries, there is a trend towards more healthy habits for fish and proteins consumption. At the same time, overfishing, pollution and poor management continue to hasten the depletion of marine sources in many countries. The global stocks status has been decreasing in terms of sustainability; but there has been an increase of the sustainable stocks landed, which means that commercial species are more and more sustainable. However, overcapacity is still an issue in many countries. Small-scale fisheries are also mentioned in the SOFIA report: they are depicted as critical for global production of fisheries and aquaculture products, especially as they are very inclusive in terms of participation of developing countries and of women. From a statistics point of view, aquaculture became a substantive part of the fish production. According to the production forecast, aquaculture will continue to increase considerably, while capture fisheries will stay around the same average. In global exports, fisheries and aquaculture are the equivalent of beef, pork and poultry combined. 37% of fish production enter international markets. The major exporters in the market are China, Norway, Vietnam and Chile. The US are the main importers, followed by China. The main species traded are finfish, salmon, shrimps, squids and tuna.



Mr Castro de Souza then presented the main outcomes of the 35th meeting of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI). COFI is a policy body discussion which gathers politicians, supported by two subcommittees (on fish trade and on aquaculture). These subcommittees ensure the technical discussions before policy decisions are taken in the Committee. Many areas are covered by the COFI meeting: the general reporting of production trade, FAO instruments, small-scale fisheries, biodiversity, etc. During the 35th meeting, it was decided to create a new subcommittee on fisheries management, that will discuss management and IUU fishing. Members also endorsed the new voluntary guidelines for transshipment and worked on support for a global aquaculture development and on guidelines for a sustainable aquaculture, which will probably be approved in March. A significant emphasis was put on small-scale fisheries and well as on regional coordination processes involving fisheries management. Indeed, RFMOs were given more importance with the WTO agreement.

- **Exchange of views**

Daniel Voces (Europêche) asked where the increase in aquaculture production comes from. Mr Voces also mentioned the CITES COP15 and Panama's proposal to include several shark families in Appendix II. He wondered how the FAO SOFIA report would be included in the CITES negotiations. Finally, he requested a better involvement of FAO's work in the BBNJ negotiations.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) asked whether FAO has developed processes or tools to valorise ecosystem services, as well as recommendations on the joint development of offshore aquaculture and wind.

Marcio Castro de Souza (FAO) explained that FAO has produced a study on consumer misconceptions about aquaculture products in Europe¹. Asia, Latin America (Ecuador, Brazil, Chile) and Central America (Honduras) are growing suppliers of aquaculture products, while China is playing a very strong role in reprocessing fish.

On CITES, Mr Castro de Souza explained that FAO produces a report before every meeting to provide the necessary scientific support. During the last CITES meeting, the listing of some species was very controversial, particularly for some sharks. FAO hopes that the new subcommittee will be able to accelerate the number of technical reports on CITES' specific issues. For BBNJ, FAO is also doing its best to provide its perspectives.

Concerning the joint development of aquaculture and offshore wind, FAO tried to address four years ago all the services associated with fisheries and aquaculture production: it was one of the most complicated areas to get data from. FAO is still trying to address how associated services can increase the value of the sector; research is ongoing.

Work Programme of Year 7 (2022-2023)

- **Presentation of priorities, deliverables, and budget by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

¹ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/details-publication/en/c/360636/>



The Secretary General recalled that the Executive Committee discussed the draft work programme at the 7 July 2022 meeting. The document has been submitted to the Commission. The draft work programme includes priorities, commitments in terms of outputs and dates of the meetings. The Secretary General explained that the priorities for year 7, from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023, were the following:

- Farm to Fork Strategy, which is divided into different initiatives:
 - Development of contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security
 - Development of EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices
 - Revision of EU marketing standards for fishery and aquaculture products
 - Revision of consumer information rules (harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling, mandatory origin indication for certain products)
 - Review of EU promotion programme for agricultural and food products
 - Proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems (includes proposal for sustainable food labelling framework, and determining modalities for setting mandatory criteria for sustainable food procurement)
 - Evaluation and revision of existing animal welfare legislation
 - Legislative initiatives to enhance cooperation of primary producers to support their position in the food chain and non-legislative initiatives to improve transparency
 - Proposal on Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive
 - Enhancement of coordination to enforce single market rules and tackle food fraud
 - Review of EU school scheme legal framework
 - Proposal for EU-level targets for food waste reduction
 - Revision of EU rules on Food Contact Materials.
- Market disturbances, including Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Trade agreements and trade policy instruments: under year 6, the initial Focus Group on Trade prepared a report on the existing EU trade policy instruments and drafted advice on improving trade data. A new Focus Group on Trade will be established under year 7.
- Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) and global governance.
- EUMOFA: the MAC has always been following the work of EUMOFA and will continue to provide advice, notably based on the annual fish market report.
- Landing obligation: the Commission does an annual report on the implementation of the landing obligation, which is based on information from the Member States and from the ACs. The MAC does not provide information on the implementation in the field, but focuses on the socioeconomic impact on the market, particularly outlets for catches below the minimum conservation sizes and the market segments. Working Group 1 addresses the issue every year.
- STECF, which provides an annual report on fishing fleet, a biennial report on the aquaculture sector and a biennial report on the fish processing industry. MAC is committed to try to be represented as an observer in the relevant STECF Expert Working Group meetings, and to provide feedback to the Commission on any relevant report.
- Substantiating environmental claims and PEFCR for unprocessed marine fish products.
- EU Taxonomy.



The following recommendations will have to be produced: new work programme of EUMOFA; the report on landing obligation; the Russian invasion of Ukraine; information to consumers; the annual report on fishing fleets; IUU fishing; the Farm to Fork strategy initiatives; the economic aquaculture report and the legislative proposal for marine standards frameworks. The MAC will have to deliver on at least 50% of these deliverables.

The meetings would be held in January, March (online), May and September – likely in Brussels.

The Secretary General then informed the members that Mr Panos Manias was no longer working for EBCD. Interviews were taking place to select a new financial officer.

The Secretary General also presented the budget. The total amount of operating expenses for year 7 is €344,204.80, including:

- €137,040.00 for the Staff (Secretary General for 100% of their time; the assistant to the Secretary General for 40% of their time; and the financial officer for 20% of their time)
- €62,526.00 for the participation in meetings (travel expenses for members, Secretariat and invited experts)
- €40,404.00 for the information and preparation of meetings (meeting rooms, lunch, dinners, etc.)
- €20,054,80 for the operating costs
- €76,600.00 for the interpretation and translation
- €7,580.00 for other contracts (external services and external auditor).

The Secretary General recalled that the Commission aimed to reduce the travel costs, which explained the small reduction in the budget compared to previous years.

The income is expected to be split according to the following:

- €294,204.80 of financial contribution from the European Commission
- €14,000.00 of financial contribution from Member States
- €36,000.00 of financial contribution from members, including:
 - €11,400.00 from the General Assembly (57 members)
 - €8,400.00 from the Executive Committee (21 members)
 - €16,200.00 from the Working Group members (54 members).

- **Approval of work programme and annual budget**

The General Assembly agreed on the work programme and the budget for Year 7 (2022-2023).

Working Groups

- **Reporting by Sean O'Donoghue, Chair of Working Group 1**

Sean O'Donoghue (KFO) informed that Working Group 1 (WG1) had produced an important amount of work during the year and aimed to continue. Work was carried out on the following topics:

- COVID-19 pandemic
- The war in Ukraine



- The report on the functioning of the CMO Regulation, in collaboration with Working Group 3
- The report on the functioning of the CFP Regulation
- EUMOFA, through the identification of suggestions for studies
- The STECF Annual Economic Report on the Fleet report
- Revision of Production and Marketing Plans guidelines and good practices, which would be put forward to the Executive Committee for adoption soon
- The landing obligation, which had little to no impact from the market point-of-view
- Brown Crab and the establishment of a new focus group
- The EMFAF operational programmes: the Commission was expected to provide an overview of all the operational programmes at the next meeting

Mr O'Donoghue concluded that, overall, WG1 had worked well, even though time was sometimes insufficient to address all topics.

- **Reporting by Pierre Commère, Chair of Working Group 2**

Pierre Commère (ADEPALE) recalled that Working Group 2 (WG2) addresses trade flows, the understanding of the market and its functioning. The main issues on which WG2 had been working were the following:

- STECF presentation on the processing industry: WG2 would be drafting an opinion on better collection of data.
- Trade policy instruments: advice had been adopted on the statistics and measures of the different commercial policy instruments. Other trade policy instruments were to be addressed in the future. WG2 also worked on the impact of other regulations on trade, such as IUU fishing. A presentation took place on this topic and advice had been drafted.
- Banning products from forced labour.
- Limitations to trade flows, such as sanitary barriers.

Mr Commère highlighted that, in 2023, work would notably focus on the impact of fisheries control and traceability on trade, plus on the WTO Fisheries Agreement.

- **Reporting by Benoît Thomassen, Chair of Working Group 3**

Benoît Thomassen (FEAP) explained that Working Group 3 (WG3) covered a broad range of topics. Advice was developed on the functioning of the CFP, the EU-level targets for food waste reduction, the public consultation on food information to consumers, EU legislation on animal welfare, Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (together with the establishment of a Focus Group), and maximum sulphates levels in crustaceans. Draft advice was ongoing on the Sustainable Food Systems Framework and on the initiative for empowering the consumer for the green transition.

The Chair thanked the Working Group Chairs and the members for their work. The Chair highlighted the importance of avoiding overloading the agendas of the meetings.



Work Programme of Year 6 (2021-2022)

- **Update on priorities and deliverables by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General recalled the priorities of Year 6 (2021-2022):

- Outstanding Work:
 - Revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation: the last update was provided in September 2021. As soon as there are tangible outcomes from the trilogues, the MAC would draft a follow-up advice.
 - Catch IT System: this file is connected to the fisheries control. Advice to be drafted once provisions on the mandatory use are published.
 - EMFAF Funding Priorities: Exchanges were held with Spain in January, with Poland in May. There were plans to have further exchange with Member States as well as with the Commission in January 2023.
- Farm to Fork Strategy:
 - Sustainable Food Systems: advice was adopted on 15 February 2022.
 - Animal welfare legislation: advice was adopted on 30 March 2022.
 - Position of primary producers in food chain: no new work took place.
 - Corporate governance framework: the initiative was discussed at the January 2022 WG 2 meeting
 - FIC Regulation: advice was adopted on 30 March 2022.
 - Food Fraud: no new work took place.
 - EU School Scheme: The topic was covered under the advice on health and environmental value of fisheries and aquaculture products
 - EU-level targets for food waste reduction: advice was adopted on 30 March 2022.
- Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments:
 - Exchanges of views with the Commission took place in all WG2 meetings.
 - Advice on the EU-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement was adopted in October 2021.
 - Advice on improving data in trade policy instruments was adopted in March 2022.
- Marketing Standards Framework:
 - Advice on incorporation of sustainability aspects was adopted on 15 October 2021.
 - An exchange of views with DG MARE was held at the September 2022 WG1 meeting.
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing & Global Governance:
 - A joint MAC-LDAC Advice on Flags of Convenience was adopted on 8 October 2021.
 - An exchange of views was held with DG MARE at March 2022 WG2 meeting.
 - There had been several presentations by NGOs on the EU carding system, the Chinese distant-water fleet and on import controls.
- European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA):
 - An exchange of views was held with DG MARE at March 2022 WG1 meeting.
 - Draft advice with a suggestion of EUMOFA study (aquaculture) was under development in WG1.
- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs):
 - An exchange of views with DG MARE was held at the January 2022 WG2 meeting.



- The publication of the evaluation and the Staff Working Document was still pending.
- Food Information to Consumers): Advice based on the Commission’s public consultation was adopted on 30 March 2022.
- Technologies for the transmission of data in the supply chain: a joint MAC-NSAC-NWWAC webinar took place on December 2021. The webinar report was published on 18 January 2022.
- Landing obligation: advice on the 2021 implementation was adopted on 28 April 2022.
- Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF):
 - A presentation of the Annual Economic Report of Fishing Fleet took place at the January 2022 WG1 meeting and at the September 2022 WG1 meeting.
 - A presentation of the 2022 Economic Report on the Fish Processing Industry took place at the September 2022 WG2 meeting.
 - Advice on the 2022 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet was adopted on 25 May 2022.
 - MAC representatives participated as observers in STECF meetings.
- Sanitary and hygiene rules: advice on sulphite levels in crustaceans under was adopted on 28 July 2022.
- Substantiating Green Claims:
 - A Focus Group on Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for Marine Fish had been established.
 - Advice on PEFCR for Marine Fish was adopted on 25 May 2022.
- Empowering the Consumer for the Green Transition: advice on setting of minimum requirements for sustainability logos and labels was under development in WG3.
- Other work:
 - Advice on the functioning of the CFP Regulation was adopted on 23 March 2022.
 - Advice on the functioning of the CMO Regulation was adopted on 30 March 2022.
 - Advice on taxonomy was under development in WG2.

The Secretary General concluded that Year 6 had been an ambitious and productive year. In terms of deliverables, the MAC had not met all commitments, since some topics were dependent on legislative developments in the EU institutions.

- **Update on the accounts**

The Secretary General informed that, at the time of the meeting, out of the €345,400 budgeted, the MAC had spent €271,301.03 (71%), including:

- €125,590.90 for the staff
- €18,357.09 for the participation in meetings, which was considerably lower than the foreseen expenses because of the organisation of hybrid meetings
- €45,036.50 for the information and preparation of meetings, which was higher than foreseen because of the mentioned hybrid meetings
- €18,658.16 for the operating costs
- €50,739.03 for the interpretation and translation
- €12,162.55 for other contracts, which included unforeseen costs for update of the website.



The expended amount would increase with the costs connected to the organisation of the September 2022 meetings, such as reimbursements for travel, and the translation of documents. There would also be continued costs with staff and operations. It was expected that 86% of the budget would be spent.

In terms of income, under Year 6, the MAC received €22,000.00 of financial contributions from Member States. After several years without a contribution, Ireland exceptionally contributed with €8.000. The membership fees were in line with previous years, so around €17,000.00.

The Chair requested information on the unspent budgeted money.

The Secretary General explained that, under the new financial rules were not yet applicable to the funding of Year 6. As such, most of the unspent money would be return to the Commission, while a small part would stay in the bank account of the MAC. It could be used for emergencies or for future non-reimbursable expenses. The Secretary General further explained that the next operational year would follow the new lump-sum approach. The Commission would provide the funding and, if 50% of the deliverables are met, the MAC keeps the entirety of the funding and does not have to report back on the expenditure. For transparency purposes, the Secretariat would continue to undertake accounting as well as an external annual audit.

Sean O'Donogue (KFO) requested information on the management of the finances taking into account the departure of Mr Manias from EBCD.

The Secretary General informed that Mr Manias would be assisting the Secretariat, particularly for the closing of the accounts of Year 6, until a new was selected by EBCD.

Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Executive Committee

- **Information on appointments for Chair, Vice-Chairs, Chairs of Working Groups, and Executive Committee for the 2023-2026 period by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General recalled that the Executive Committee is appointed every three years by the General Assembly and that the current leadership positions period was reaching its conclusion. In January 2023, the General Assembly would have to decide on new appointments for these leadership positions. He encouraged the members to initiate discussions about these applications. The Secretary General recalled the rules for the appointments, including the agreement on the distribution of the 25 seats of the Executive Committee:

- The sector would have 60% of the seats, corresponding to 15 seats distributed as follows:
 - Primary producers (catching sector): 5 seats
 - Primary producers (aquaculture): 2 seats
 - Processors, traders, suppliers and retailers: 7 seats
 - Workers (trade unions): 1 seat



- Other Interest Groups (OIGs), such as environmental and development NGOs, consumer organisations, and others, to hold the other 10 remaining seats

For the 2020-2023 period, the distribution of the seats in the Executive Committee was the following:

- Value Supply Chain (60%)
 - Primary Producers (Catching): EAPO, Europêche, COPA-COGECA, VisNed, Pêcheurs de Bretagne
 - Primary Producers (Aquaculture): EMPA, FEAP
 - Processors, traders, suppliers, retailers: AIPCE, CEP, European Fishmeal, EuroCommerce, FRUCOM, CONXEMAR, ANFACO-CECOPECA
 - Workers (Trade Unions): ETF
- Other Interest Groups (40%): MSC, Oceana, WWF, ClientEarth, EJF, Good Fish (4 vacant seats)

The Secretary General informed that a call for applications would be launched in the upcoming weeks.

The Secretary General recalled that the MAC Chair, who serves as the Chair of the General Assembly and of the Executive Committee, must be appointed by consensus in the General Assembly for three years. The MAC Vice-Chair was appointed by the Executive Committee among the membership. The established practice was to have two Vice-Chairs. According to the new rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils, if the Chair comes from a sector organisation, one of the Vice-Chairs must come from an OIG association. The Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs were also appointed for three years. Sector representatives vote for the seats held by the sector, while the OIG representatives vote for the seats held by OIGs. As such, the OIGs would not be required to vote at the January 2023 meeting, since there would be fewer candidates than seats in the Executive Committee.

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None.



Attendance List

Representative	Organisation	Role
Alen Louvrinov	Omega 3 Producers Organisation	Member
Alonso Abreu Lozano	Asociación de Armadores Punta del Moral (OPP80)	Member
Alexandra Philippe	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Andrea Albertazzi	European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)	Member
Anna Boulova	FRUCOM	Member
Batuhan Özcelik	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Member
Bruno Guillaumie	European Molluscs' Producers Association (EMPA)	Member
Benoît Thomassen	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Bruno Guillaumie	European Molluscs Producers Association (EMPA)	Member
Carmen Preising	European Commission	Expert
Christine Absil	Good Fish	Member
Els Bedert	EuroCommerce	Member
Frangiscos Nikolian	European Commission	Expert
Katarina Sipic	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE) / European Federation of National Organizations of Importers and Exporters of Fish (CEP)	Member
Guus Pastoor	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE) / Visfederatie	Chair
Jaroslaw Zieliński	Polish Fish Producers Association (PFPA)	Member
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne	Member
Jennifer Reeves	Marine Stewardship Council	Member
Juan Manuel Trujillo Castillo	European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)	Member
Juana Maria Parada Guinaldo	OR.PA.GU.	Member
Marcio Castro de Souza	Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Expert
Maria Luisa Álvarez Blanco	Federación de Asociaciones Provinciales de Empresarios Detallistas de Pescados y Productos Congelados (FEDEPESCA)	Member
Marine Cusa	Oceana	Member
Massimo Bellavista	COPA COGECA	Member



Representative	Organisation	Role
Noémie Jegou	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Patrick Murphy	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation (IS&WFPO)	Member
Paul Thomas	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Pedro Luis Casado López	Asociación de Armadores Punta del Moral (OPP80)	Member
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Pierre Commère	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Member
Pim Visser	VisNed	Member
Quentin Marchais	ClientEarth	Member
Rosalie Tukker	Europêche	Member
Sean O'Donoghue	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) / Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Member
Sergio López García	OPP Puerto de Burela	Member
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	Member
Yobana Bermúdez	CONXEMAR	Member

