

## Executive Committee

### Draft Minutes

Wednesday, 3 April 2024 (14:00 – 16:00 CET)

Zoom

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

#### Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez

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

**Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (31.01.24):** adopted

#### Action points of the last meeting

- **State-of-play of the action points of the last meeting - information**
- Membership of General Assembly:
  - Secretary General to contact associations representing HoReCa and consumer interests as well as NGOs about their potential interest in becoming members
    - Ongoing
- Financial Reserves:
  - Finance Officer to proceed with a six-month investment of 100,000 euros in ING
    - Investment set-up as agreed
- European Maritime Day:
  - Secretary General to proceed with the co-organisation of the joint workshop, including potential coverage of the participation costs of one of the speakers
    - Ongoing

#### Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

- **Presentation of the "Blue Transformation" 2022-2030 roadmap by Mariana Toussaint (FAO)**

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

Mariana Toussaint (FAO) presented the FAO's "Blue Transformation" 2022-2030 roadmap, which seeks to promote sustainable aquaculture intensification, effective fisheries management, and value chains that ensure the social, economic, and environmental viability of aquatic food systems. Ms Toussaint highlighted that 9.2% of the global population suffers from chronic hunger, a figure that increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, with approximately 122 million more people facing hunger challenges as a result of the pandemic. According to current projections, achieving SDG



Goal 2 on hunger eradication will be extremely challenging. Ms Toussaint stated that Africa has the most hungry people, Asia has the highest proportion of undernourished people, and there is global food insecurity.

Ms Toussaint explained that the FAO is focusing on aquatic foods to help bridge this gap and address global food insecurity. She stated that aquatic foods are highly nutritious, diverse, and have the lowest carbon emissions when compared to other animal proteins. Furthermore, approximately 3 billion people rely on aquatic foods for primary protein, with nearly 218 million tonnes of aquatic foods produced in 2021 (83% of which are animals and 17% algae). Aquaculture is rapidly catching up to capture fisheries in terms of aquatic food production. However, transformative actions are still required to protect the environment while also ensuring food security.

Ms Toussaint explained that aquatic foods employ approximately 600 million people and contribute significantly to local economies, particularly in the Global South. Approximately 207 states and territories trade in aquatic species, and that many people working in the post-harvest sector are women. Ms Toussaint emphasised the importance of increasing aquatic food production in most parts of the world in order to maintain current consumption levels.

To push for this in a sustainable and systematic way, the FAO has developed its “Blue Transformation” initiative. Ms Toussaint explained that the initiative has three objectives and associated outcomes. These are: 1) Sustainable aquaculture intensification and expansion that satisfies global demand for aquatic foods and distributes benefits equitably, 2) effective management of all fisheries delivers healthy stocks and secures equitable livelihoods, and 3) upgraded value chains ensure the social, economic and environmental viability of aquatic food systems.

To achieve objective 1, the FAO issued guidelines for sustainable aquaculture. These guidelines are based on best technological developments, improved environmental performance, and regional and national best practices. Furthermore, the FAO is promoting aquaculture biosecurity through a variety of novel initiatives. Finally, the FAO has gathered genetic information on more than 600 species for conservation and sustainable use.

To achieve objective 2, the FAO is working together with various stakeholders to improve data collection, analysis, and reporting of fisheries data. The FAO also continues to collaborate with and build capacity in various African countries through their EAF Nansen programme. Finally, the FAO is also developing a global policy instrument to combat IUU fishing.

To achieve objective 3, the FAO is conducting value chain assessments through its Fish4ACP project. These assessments seek to improve fishery value chains economically and environmentally while remaining socially inclusive. The FAO is also developing traceability guidelines, defining traceability criteria that will enable end-to-end tracking. Furthermore, the FAO is creating voluntary guidelines on social responsibility to promote decent working conditions through social protection.

Ms Toussaint explained that all of these objectives and initiatives as well as the transformation of aquatic foods will help to meet the necessary targets for maintaining consumption levels. She emphasised that poor implementation of the "Blue Transformation" will result in lower per capita



consumption of aquatic foods and, eventually, food insecurity. Ms Toussaint emphasised the importance of partnerships and interagency cooperation in achieving the "Blue Transformation" goals, and that the FAO is in a unique position to facilitate dialogue and ensure that relevant stakeholders collaborate and drive forward a united front.

- **Exchange of view**

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) inquired whether the FAO had assessed the area that will need to be allocated to aquaculture in coastal and other areas in order to meet the objectives outlined in the "Blue Transformation" initiative. He asked if studies had been conducted on the nutrient values in the waters needed for future aquaculture production.

Mariana Toussaint (FAO) requested that Mr Guillaumie send her an email so that she could notify the appropriate units and colleagues at the FAO, who could respond to his question fully.

Pierre Commère (ADEPALE) wondered whether the FAO had taken into account societal behavioural and consumption changes (i.e., citizens shifting from animal-based to plant-based imitation products) when assessing the need to increase aquatic foods to combat hunger.

Mariana Toussaint (FAO) stated that the FAO was aware of shifting consumption trends and had factored them into future aquatic food consumption projections. Information on the matter was also available on the FAO's website.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) stated that the European Commission and the FAO take very different approaches to aquaculture. In his view, the Commission was betting on and advocating for very specific types of aquaculture (i.e., extensive, low trophic, organic) that were excellent but insufficient. He praised the FAO for emphasising the importance of intensification in aquaculture, pointing out that the industry had stagnated in the EU, even though it was growing in the rest of the world. Mr Ojeda argued that intensification was the best use of space and resources when developing aquaculture, and he stressed that the Commission needed to be convinced of this.

Mariana Toussaint (FAO) mentioned that the FAO's overall vision was to promote aquaculture production and consumption, while and destigmatising these products from the perception of "bad quality," as they were sometimes portrayed. In hew view, consumers should be more aware of the benefits of aquaculture.

Jean-Marie Robert (Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne) agreed with Mr Ojeda's point about the differences in approach between the Commission and the FAO. He stated that, when it came to fisheries, some political parties and NGOs called for a reduction in fishing vessels and demonstrated a lack of desire to produce aquatic food products within the EU, undermining the bloc's food self-sufficiency. He stated that, based on FAO projections, the European continent would need to produce significantly more to maintain current consumption levels. The population growth and the lower comparative impact of aquatic food production should be kept in mind.



Guus Pastoor (Visfederatie) agreed with Mr Ojeda that the EU's aquaculture industry was not growing as quickly as it should. He did, however, highlight the willingness of large companies to invest in aquaculture in Europe. He asked how the FAO had taken into account financial capacity in the roadmap, since private capital would be required to achieve the goals outlined. Mr Pastoor also asked whether collaboration was established between the FAO and the World Bank.

Mariana Toussaint (FAO) stated that she would forward this question to the appropriate colleagues at the FAO.

The Chair emphasised the importance of fishery and aquaculture products to feed the world. The Chair encouraged the FAO to inform the MAC in writing how the various aspects of the initiative would be implemented and with whom, particularly in terms of collaboration with government and banks. In addition, she asked for information on monitoring the implementation of the objectives.

Mariana Toussaint (FAO) agreed that the FAO could provide this information. She highlighted that there were several partners involved in various projects and aspects of the initiative. Reporting on the implementation of the roadmap would take place at the next FAO Sub-Committee meetings. Ms Toussaint took the opportunity to inform that, at the 8-12 July 2024 session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries, the next State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) report would be published.

### Working Groups

- **Reporting by Julien Lamothe, Chair of Working Group 1**

Julien Lamothe (EAPO) informed the Executive Committee that, at the 3 April 2024 meeting of Working Group 1:

- Members exchanged with the Chair of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) Expert Working Group on sustainability indicators of fishery and aquaculture products. The STECF would be publishing their report on the issue soon after. Members exchanged about the three indicators presented and agreed to wait until the report was published before drafting any advice.
- Members discussed the "Fishers of the Future" project and provided feedback on the workshop held in March 2024. Members supported the idea of writing a joint letter with other Advisory Councils (with the North Western Waters Advisory Council taking the lead) about the project, raising questions on the methodology used and the Commission's ambitions.
- Members again discussed the draft advice on the energy transition in EU fisheries and aquaculture, which had already been postponed from January. Since the text still needed to be revised, members agreed that the advice would be finalised within a week and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval via written procedure as soon as possible.
- Members discussed next steps on the European Commission's questionnaires on social indicators and Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy. As very few answers were received, it was agreed



that an email message would be sent to the Commission informing that no formal reply to the questionnaires would be sent, while mentioning the issues raised by the members.

- Members discussed the next steps on the questionnaire on the mid-term evaluation of the EMFAF. Members agreed to send in individual answers due to the low number of responses and the diverse implementation of EMFAF funds. The Secretary General would send an email message to the Commission's external consultant explaining that no formal reply would be submitted, while mentioning the issues raised by the members.

Concerning the exchange on sustainability indicators, Mr Lamothe emphasised the importance of taking a broader view on sustainability assessments. Therefore, it would be relevant to compile all of the Commission's work on sustainability into a comprehensive format.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) emphasised that the presentation by STECF only focused on environmental sustainability, lacking references to socio-economic sustainability. Mr Guillaumie argued that the three pillars of sustainability need to be implemented together. Economic factors, such as contribution to GDP, and added value, and social data, such as employment, and benefits to coastal communities, should be part of the sustainability indicators.

Julien Lamothe (EAPO) recalled that the points mentioned by Mr Guillaumie were already explicitly raised in the advice adopted on 15 October 2021 about the incorporation of sustainability aspects. According to the European Commission, there were technical difficulties in the integration of socio-economic sustainability, since these elements were not specific to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Nevertheless, these points could be reaffirmed in the future.

Christine Absil (Good Fish) also emphasised that the points mentioned by Mr Guillaumie were already addressed priorly by the MAC. Initially, the European Commission included socio-economic elements, but then concluded that it was difficult to have such comprehensive elements.

The Secretary General suggested that, when developing new advice about sustainability indicators, it would be possible to include a paragraph recalling the previous recommendations on socio-economic sustainability. The Commission seemed to be awaiting the developments concerning the proposal on a Sustainable Food System Framework, since the socio-economic elements would be relevant for all food sectors, not only fisheries and aquaculture.

The Chair suggested to inquire with the Commission about the plans for the future concerning the initiative on sustainability indicators.

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

Pierre Commère (AIPCE) informed the Executive Committee that, at the 2 April 2024 meeting of Working Group 2:

- A DG MARE representative informed members about the European Citizens' Initiative to ban shark fin trading in the EU. The representative explained the legal process surrounding a public



consultation and the various scenarios that were being considered. A questionnaire on the subject will be sent to Working Group 2 members, and potential advice will follow.

- Members exchanged with a DG MARE representative about the EU's new lot composition and traceability rules for fishery and aquaculture products in the context of the new Fisheries Control Regulation. Working Group members agreed to provide feedback on the Terms of Reference for the study on feasible traceability systems to be commissioned by the European Commission. The advice would be based on the responses to a questionnaire distributed prior to the meeting.
  - A DG MARE representative informed members about the impacts of the Red Sea crisis on the market of fishery and aquaculture products. The representative explained that the effects were minor, and that while freight and insurance costs increased, plus changes in journey times, there was no significant increase in the price of aquatic food products.
  - Members analysed the letter of reply from the European Commission on the joint MAC-LDAC advice on the Chinese long-distance fleet. A presentation by the Outlaw Ocean Project about Chinese IUU fishing and labour rights violations also took place. Members agreed to continue monitor developments on the topic. At the next meeting, it would be determined whether additional advice would be required.
  - A study commissioned by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on risks and vulnerabilities in the EU food supply chain was presented. It allowed for a comparison with other food products.
- **Reporting by Benoît Thomassen, Chair of Working Group 3**

The Secretary General, on behalf of Benoît Thomassen (FEAP) informed the Executive Committee that, at the 2 April 2024 meeting of Working Group 3:

- Members exchanged views about the European Parliament's position on the legislative proposal on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims. The interinstitutional negotiations were expected to start soon after.
- Members received an update by a DG ENV representative on the development of Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for marine fish products. Previously, following a first open consultation by the Commission's experts, the MAC adopted advice on the topic. A second open consultation was scheduled for May 2024. Working Group 3 agreed to relaunch the Focus Group on PEFCR for Marine Fish Products to prepare advice based on the second open public consultation.
- A DG MARE representative delivered an update about the launch of the EU-wide campaign on aquaculture foreseen under the strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture. The materials of the campaign are expected to be completed by November 2024. The DG MARE representative also took the opportunity to provide an update on the launch of the fourth edition of the "Taste the Ocean" campaign", integrating the recommendations of the MAC.



- A DG SANTE representative delivered a presentation on the legislative proposal to restrict bisphenol A (BPA) and other bisphenols in food contact materials (FCM). The need for longer transition periods in the sector was highlighted. Members agreed to contact the Commission services directly with their feedback and questions.
- At the initiative of OR.PA.GU., members were given a presentation on the Swordfish and Blue Shark Fishing Improvement Project (FIP Blues).

### Membership of the General Assembly

- **Update on contacts with external associations about potential membership applications by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General provided an update on the efforts for a wider representation of interests in the membership of the Advisory Council. As determined, as an action point, at the previous meeting, the Secretary General focused on HoReCa and consumer organisations.

In the context of the MAC / AAC Focus Group on Consumer Information in HoReCa, HOTREC and FoodServicesEurope agreed to participate as active observers. The Secretary General took the opportunity to invite HOTREC to consider applying to become a member of the MAC, but the invitation was rejected due to lack of capacity. Mr Reis Santos informed that he was waiting for FoodServicesEurope to become more familiar with the work of the Advisory Councils before encouraging a membership application, but he expressed doubts that this association would have sufficient capacity.

Regarding consumer associations, the Secretary General informed that he had contacted BEUC. According to the response received, this association does not have staff working on fishery and aquaculture topics, so BEUC would not be sending a membership request. This was in line with previous efforts of the Secretary General to encourage BEUC to participate.

Concerning NGOs, the Secretary General recalled that, at previous occasions, the Pew Trusts expressed some potential interest in applying once their markets team was further developed. He sent an email message to a representative of the Pew Trusts requesting an update, but no response was received. The Secretary General recalled that, at previous occasions, he had encouraged The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to apply, but no application took place. Recently, a representative of TNC requested a meeting to gather information on the matter, which had been scheduled for May 2024.

As suggested at the previous meeting, the Secretary General contacted the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) about the possibility to apply to become a member. The ASC responded favourable and sent an application request. The Secretariat sent a letter to the Dutch authorities requesting their endorsement. The next steps of the application procedure were pending the reply.

As for aquaculture associations, the Secretary General recalled that there had been requests to increase the representation of aquaculture interests in the Advisory Council. The Secretary General informed that he had contacted the Danish Aquaculture Organisation, but the response was that they



participated indirectly via FEAP and the Danish Seafood Association. HAPO, the Greek aquaculture association, was encouraged to apply. A decision from their management board was pending. Mr Reis Santos highlighted that many aquaculture organisations were members of the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC), but seemed to lack capacity to participate in two Advisory Councils. Nevertheless, to increase awareness, the Secretary General would be participating in a seminar of the AAC about the work and priorities of the MAC. The seminar would take place in May 2024.

Additionally, the Secretary General informed that an application was received from the European Salmon Smokers Association. A letter requesting endorsement was sent to the Belgian authorities. An application was also received from AECOC, which received explicit endorsement from the Spanish authorities.

The Chair asked members whether there were any objections to AECOC becoming a member.

*The Executive Committee endorsed AECOC as a new member of the General Assembly.*

The Chair proposed to schedule an introductory presentation from AECOC at a future meeting.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) expressed satisfaction with the work of the MAC. Mr Ojeda informed that FEAP was encouraging its members to apply to the MAC, to enhance the representation of aquaculture interests.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) also expressed satisfaction with the work of the MAC. Mr Guillaumie informed that EMPA was also encouraging its members to apply to the MAC. He highlighted that, as demonstrated by the presentation from Ms Toussaint, the future would be about more aquaculture production globally. He also expressed satisfaction about the membership of AECOC.

Mr Guillaumie stated that the representation of MSC and ASC was relevant, but expressed doubts about the classification of these two associations as part of the “Other Interest Groups” when considering the criteria provided by the Annex to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242 laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils.

Mr Guillaumie encouraged a close collaboration between the MAC and the AAC, arguing that fishery representatives focused more on their sector, but that a broad view was necessary in the MAC.

Mr Guillaumie thanked the Secretary General for his efforts but expressed concern about the significant dependency on the Secretary General for the drafting of advice and the collection of input from members. Members should be further involved in the drafting process, while ensuring a critical balance between the different views of the membership. Therefore, further reflections should take place concerning the drafting process of the recommendations.

The Chair expressed satisfaction with the work of the Secretary General. In her view, in a situation of lack of capacity from the Secretary General, the Working Groups should find alternatives for the drafting of recommendations.





Julien Lamothe (EAPO) also expressed satisfaction with the work of the Secretary General. In his view, members had the possibility to provide input and to participate in the drafting process. Therefore, it was more a matter of members investing in the work. Mr Lamothe expressed concern about the continuous requests from the European Commission, particularly via questionnaires, with short deadlines, which were quite difficult to meet.

María Luisa Alvaréz Blanco (FEDEPESCA) congratulated the Secretary General for the excellent work. In her view, the drafting of the recommendations by someone independent that considers all sides provided added value in the facilitation of the drafting. In case of lack of availability from the Secretary General, then the members would need to reorganise their practices.

The Chair encouraged the Secretary General to continue the efforts on the representativeness of the membership.

### European Maritime Day

- **Update on the proposal for a joint workshop with the other Advisory Councils by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General recalled that DG MARE asked the 11 Advisory Councils to submit a joint proposal for workshop at the 2024 edition of the European Maritime Day. As mentioned at the previous meeting, the title proposed by the 11 Advisory Councils was “Why should you eat fishery and aquaculture products? Stakeholder engagement on carbon footprint, nutrition, food security, and socioeconomics”. Following orientations from the Director-General, DG MARE decided that the title should be “EU Advisory Councils: Stakeholder engagement in policymaking for healthy and productive fisheries and aquatic ecosystems”. Registration for the European Maritime Day and for the workshop had opened. Mr Reis Santos informed that he would be attending in person to facilitate in the organisation. The workshop would be moderated by Mark Dickey-Collas and the MAC would be covering the cost of his flights.

The Secretary General provided an overview of the workshop’s format. First, there would be an introduction with questions about the Advisory Councils to assess the familiarity of the audience members. Then, a panel discussion on stakeholder engagement would be held with Antonia Leroy (WWF), Jesper Raaskjaer (former Chair of the General Assembly of PELAC), and Marta Ballesteros (social scientist). Afterwards, interaction with the audience would take place in small groups, where participants would be asked to provide feedback on the work of the Advisory Councils and stakeholder engagement. After the workshop, a proposal of draft advice, based on the feedback of the participants, would be prepared.

Guus Pastoor (Visfederatie) expressed dissatisfaction with the title proposed by the European Commission, since it did not cover the entire value chain or the work of the MAC. Mr Pastoor encouraged the Secretary General to advocate for a title more in line with the MAC’s work.

The Chair proposed the submission of an email message to the Commission services to highlight the concerns raised by Mr Pastoor concerning the title of the joint workshop.



## Inter-Advisory Council's Coordination

- **Reporting back on the following meetings:**
  - **Inter-Advisory Councils' Brexit Forum (5 February 2024)**

The Secretary General informed members on the Inter-Advisory Councils' Brexit Forum meeting, which took place on 5 February 2024, in Brussels. At the meeting, the Commission briefed participants on the outcomes of the Working Groups and the Specialised Committee on Fisheries, including an update on the upcoming EU-UK bilateral consultations and on the development of the consultations on the UK's Fisheries Management Plans, and the work plan for shared stocks.

Mr Reis Santos further informed that, prior to the meeting, each Advisory Council was asked to propose topics to be addressed by the Commission representatives. On behalf of the MAC, in line with the Work Programme of Year 8 (2023-2024), he had requested an agenda point about the UK's Border Target Operating Model. The Commission representatives were not able to address the point and requested for the point to be addressed again in a future opportunity.

The Secretary General recalled that, as requested by DG MARE, a report of the meeting would be prepared, but not circulated.

- **Inter-Advisory Councils' coordination meeting with DG MARE (6 February 2024)**

The Secretary General debriefed members on the Inter-Advisory Councils' coordination meeting with DG MARE, which took place on 6 February 2024, in Brussels. In person, the MAC was represented by Yobana Bermúdez (MAC Chair), Christine Absil (OIG Vice-Chair), and himself. Online, the MAC was represented by Julien Lamothe (Vice-Chair and Chair of Working Group 1) and Pierre Commère (Chair of Working Group 2). Minutes of the meeting would be prepared by DG MARE and then circulated to the members. The presentations from the meeting were already distributed. Prior to the meeting, the Advisory Councils had the opportunity to propose topics for the exchange with the Director-General of DG MARE. The new Fisheries Control Regulation and the changes to the EU IUU Regulation were also on the agenda.

Mr Reis Santos informed that, at the end of the meeting, several Secretariats and Chair of other Advisory Councils expressed frustration for the limited time for interventions provided. He highlighted that there were no clear rules on the intervention time per Advisory Councils. The Secretariats would be meeting to further discuss this matter. A meeting with the DG MARE Coordinator for the Advisory Councils was also planned.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) highlighted the significant number of requests and questionnaires that DG MARE was sending to the Advisory Councils. To prevent the coordination meetings from becoming one-sided dialogues, in his view, DG MARE should be consulted during the year about the items and reports under development. DG MARE could share non-public information, including the draft version of public consultations, with the Advisory Councils to facilitate the organisation of the work and avoid such short deadlines.



The Secretary General highlighted that, following a discussion about the issue at the previous coordination meeting, DG MARE sent an email message with a list of upcoming initiatives. Mr Reis Santos expressed hope that DG MARE would maintain this new practice. He agreed with Mr Guillaumie that it would greatly facilitate the drafting of timely advice.

- **Meeting with DG MARE about formulation of advice requests to ICES and STECF (29 February 2024)**

The Secretary General debriefed members on the meeting with DG MARE about the formulation of advice requests to ICES and STECF, which took place on 29 February 2024, in Brussels. In person, the MAC was represented by himself. Online, the MAC was represented by Yobana Bermúdez (MAC Chair) and Christine Absil (OIG Vice-Chair). At the meeting, the Secretary General expressed the positions previously adopted in a mandate from the Executive Committee.

The Secretary General recalled that the MAC was not involved in the scientific advice of ICES. Other Advisory Councils expressed willingness to be more involved in the formulation of the advice requests to ICES. The MAC collaborates closely with the STECF, particularly on the annual economic report on the EU fishing fleet, the biennial report on the EU aquaculture sector, and the biennial report on the fish processing industry. Usually, the MAC adopts advice to the European Commission on the Terms of Reference of these economic reports. Representatives of the MAC participate as active observers in the meetings of the STECF's Expert Working Groups. The Chairs of the Expert Working Groups also usually present the reports to the Working Groups of the MAC.

At the meeting, DG MARE requested a joint document from the Advisory Councils on how to facilitate the formulation of advice requests. The Secretary General would be putting forward the best practices mentioned in the mandate provided by the Executive Committee, including provision of information by DG MARE on the timeline of the preparation of the Terms of Reference, publication of the Terms of Reference, dates of the Expert Working Group meetings, deadline to register as observers, and publication of the reports. As part of these best practices, it would also be relevant to continue receiving replies via letter on the advice sent to DG MARE, to continue facilitating the participation of the relevant Advisory Councils as active observers, and to continue holding presentations of the reports by the Chairs of the Expert Working Groups.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) drew attention to the calendar of upcoming meetings of STECF, which was available online and provided some of the mentioned information. The Terms of Reference of the reports were usually prepared at the beginning of the year. Mr Guillaumie highlighted that members could register as observers or be nominated to attend as observers, subject to the election by the Chair of the Expert Working Group.

The Secretary General responded that he monitored the calendar of STECF, but it could be challenging to know the exact timings of the publications. It would be useful to know the exact timing of the preparation of the Terms of Reference of the economic reports, especially for the biennial ones, to ensure that the advice of the MAC was provide in a timely manner.



Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) mentioned that the Joint Research Centre and the Chairs of the Expert Working Groups would likely be able to provide clearer timelines.

Dominic Rihan (KFO) highlighted that the Terms of Reference of the economic report on the EU fishing fleet was usually prepared in January. He added that the meetings of the Expert Working Group were open to observers, but that was not the case for the plenary meetings.

**AOB**

None.

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## Summary of action points

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
  - Secretary General to follow-up with FAO in writing to the questions raised by members concerning the “Blue Transformation” roadmap.
- Working Groups
  - Draft advice on “energy transition in EU fisheries and aquaculture” to be put forward for consideration and potential approval via an urgent written procedure.
- Membership of the General Assembly
  - Secretary General to continue the efforts on the representativeness of the membership.
  - Introductory presentation of AECOC to be scheduled for a future meeting.
- European Maritime Day
  - Secretary General to engage with DG MARE to better reflect the areas of activity of the MAC in the title of the joint workshop.

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## Attendance List

Representative	Organisation	Role
Adryan Rademakers	Good Fish Foundation	Member
Alexandre Rodríguez	Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)	Observer
Amélie Laurent	Oceana	Member
Anna Rokicka	Polish Association of Fish Processors (PSPR)	Observer
Bruno Guillaumie	European Molluscs' Producers Association (EMPA)	Member
Christine Absil	Good Fish	Member
Cristina Borges	Portugal	Observer
Daniel Voces de Onáindi	Europêche	Member
Dominic Rihan	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Member
Emiel Brouckaert	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Falke De Sager	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Felicidad Fernández	ANFACO-CECOPESCA	Member
Gaëtane Le Breuil	European Fishmeal	Member
Guus Pastoor	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Member
Janne Posti	Conxemar	Member
Javier Ojeda	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne	Member
Jennifer Reeves	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Member
John Lynch	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO)	Observer
Julien Lamothe	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Laure Guillevic	WWF	Member
Linda Zanki Duvnjak	Ribarska Zadruga Friška Riba	Observer
María Luisa Álvarez	FEDEPESCA	Member
Mariana Toussaint	Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Expert
Martina Marcakova	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Member





Market Advisory Council

Representative	Organisation	Role
Massimo Bellavista	COPA COGECA	Member
Maximilian Schwarz	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Myfanwy Cortis	Malta	Observer
Owen Zammit	Malta	Observer
Paul Thomas	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Pierre Commère	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Member
Rosalie Tukker	Europêche	Member
Stephanie Cassar	Malta	Observer
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	Member
Yobana Bermúdez Rodríguez	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Chair

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