



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Yobana Bermúdez

Chair

Ostend

Thursday, 5 February 2026

AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 15:15 Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez
- 15:20 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (02.12.25)
- 15:25 Action Points
- 15:30 General Assembly and Executive Committee
- 15:45 EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action
- 17:15 Working Groups
- 17:20 AOB
- 17:25 Summary of actions points

17:30 End of the meeting

ACTION POINTS (2 DECEMBER 2025)

Areas of Competence:

- Draft letter on areas of competence to be amended and considered via a written procedure.
- Letter agreed via written procedure on 21 January 2026.

Chairs, Vice-Chair(s) and Executive Committee:

- Secretariat to launch the call for expressions of interest for the 2026-2029 period.
- Call for expressions of interest open from 3 to 19 December 2025.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

➤ Presentation of the candidacies for Vice-Chair(s) for the 2026-2029 period

- Designation, by consensus, of at least one vice-chairperson. At least one of the vice-chairpersons shall be designated amongst members of the category that the chairperson does not belong. (Article 4 (2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242)
- Term of three years. Member of the Executive Committee. (Article 20 of Statutes)

➤ Appointment

- Expressions of interest sent to the Secretariat:
 - Christine Absil (Good Fish Foundation)
 - Julien Lamothe (EAPO)
 - Anne Mette Bæk (EFFOP)

EU STRATEGY FOR EXTERNAL FISHERIES ACTION

➤ Comprehensive exchange of views on the upcoming communication

- Luis Molledo (Head of Unit, MARE B3), Isabelle Garzon (Adviser on International Affairs, DG MARE), MARE B3 representatives
- MAC Advice (17 November 2025)
 - Reduce dependency on third countries, address level playing field, ensure sustainable production outside EU waters
 - Supply with high quality, sustainable, legal, traceable, affordable products, nutritious diets
 - Coherence in trade, environmental, fisheries and aquaculture policies, broader regulatory frameworks (e.g., due diligence)
 - Recognition of challenges faced by operators in meeting increasing requirements
 - Lead global efforts on social responsibility (forced labour, decent working conditions)
 - Maintain and expand on the current “zero-tolerance” approach to IUU fishing
 - Foster respect for labour standards by both EU and non-EU supply
 - Strengthen economic sustainability in both EU and external supply
 - Continue promoting UNCLOS as the foundation for global ocean governance
 - Engage and coordinate with international partners and RFMOs to promote the adoption of similar standards on the fight against IUU fishing

EU STRATEGY FOR EXTERNAL FISHERIES ACTION

➤ Comprehensive exchange of views on the upcoming communication

- Luis Molledo (Head of Unit, MARE B3), Isabelle Garzon (Adviser on International Affairs, DG MARE), MARE B3 representatives
- Discussion questions on the trade and markets dimension of the external action strategy
 1. How can the EU most effectively leverage its market power and diplomatic engagement to promote sustainable fisheries management and ocean governance together with a level playing field for EU operators?
 2. Which existing trade and market tools can be mobilised more effectively to support sustainable fisheries? Should any of them be better enforced, and if yes, how?
 3. What complementary trade and market tools could further strengthen the sustainability, competitiveness and resilience of the EU's seafood value chains?

WORKING GROUPS

➤ Working Group 1

- Julien Lamothe

➤ Working Group 2

- Pierre Commère

➤ Working Group 3

- Benoît Thomassen

AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

- AOB
- Summary of action points
- End of meeting