



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Yobana Bermúdez

Chair

Ostend

Thursday, 5 February 2026

# AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 13:30 Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez
  - 13:35 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meetings' minutes (30.01.25 & 16.09.25)
  - 13:40 Classification of members
  - 14:00 Executive Committee
  - 14:15 General Assembly and Executive Committee
  - 14:25 Working Groups
  - 14:35 Work Programme of Year 10 (2025-2026)
  - 14:45 Work Programme of Year 9 (2024-2025)
  - 14:55 AOB
- 15:00 End of the meeting*

# CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS

## ➤ Decision on pending classification of members under the categories of “sector organisations” or “other interest groups”

### ■ MSC & ASC

#### *ANNEX*

##### **Criteria for classifying members of the Advisory Councils under the categories ‘sector organisations’ or ‘other interest groups’**

1. An organisation shall be classified ‘sector organisation’ when at least one of the following criteria is met:
  - (a) the organisation represents or has direct or indirect economic interests in the sectors of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution or retail of seafood;
  - (b) a majority of the members of the organisation, either natural or legal persons, represent or have direct or indirect economic interests in the sectors of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution or retail of seafood;
  - (c) the organisation represents employees in the sectors related to commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution or retail of seafood;
  - (d) at least 50 % of the organisation’s funding originates from undertakings active in the field of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution or retail of seafood.
  - (e) the organisation fulfils at least one of the criteria listed in point 1(a) to 1(d) and is active in the field of environment, consumers and human rights, health, promotion of equality or animal health or welfare.
2. An organisation shall be classified ‘other interest group’ when it does not meet any of the criteria laid down in paragraph 1 and:
  - (a) is primarily active in the field of environment, consumers and human rights, health, promotion of equality, animal health or welfare or recreational or sport fishing; or
  - (b) represents or has direct or indirect economic interests linked to the use of the marine environment or maritime space other than commercial fishing, aquaculture or the processing, marketing, distribution and retail of seafood.

# CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS

- Reply from DG MARE:
- On a definition of funding:
- **Neither the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation nor Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242 and amendments provide a specific definition of the notion of “funding”, nor of related concepts such as “income” or “revenue”.** Likewise, the applicable legal framework does not prescribe a specific methodology for assessing the 50% funding threshold referred to in Annex I.
- According to settled case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, where a term of EU law is not expressly defined, its **meaning** and **scope** must be determined by reference to its usual meaning in everyday language, while also taking into account the **context** in which it occurs, and the **objectives pursued** by the relevant rules. In this regard, the ordinary meaning of “funding” refers to financial resources provided for a particular purpose. While organisations may rely on a variety of income streams — such as membership fees, grants, service-related income, royalties or licensing fees — **the decisive element for the application of Annex I is not the legal or accounting qualification of those resources, but their economic origin.**

# CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS

## ▪ Reply from DG MARE:

### ▪ On the interpretation of paragraph 1 of Annex I:

- Point (d) of paragraph 1 of Annex I provides that an organisation shall be classified as a “sector organisation” where at least 50% of its funding originates from undertakings active in the field of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution or retail of seafood.
- In the view of the Commission services, this criterion must be interpreted by **assessing whether the financial resources of the organisation ultimately originate from economic operators active in the relevant sectors, irrespective of the form through which such resources are channelled**. Consequently, funding originating from royalties, licensing fees or other payments linked to the use of certification schemes or labels may fall within the scope of point (d), where such payments are predominantly made by undertakings active in the sectors listed in the Annex. **The fact that an organisation is legally registered as a non-profit entity or charity does not, in itself, preclude the applicability of this criterion.**
- As a conclusion and based on the above, the Commission currently considers that, where an organisation meets at least one of the criteria listed in paragraph 1 of Annex I — including the criterion relating to the origin of at least 50% of its funding — it must be classified as a “sector organisation”, irrespective of its legal form or declared mission.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## ➤ Presentation of the candidacies for membership for the 2026-2029 period

- Three years period (Article 22 of Statutes)
- 60% of seats to supply chain representatives / 40% to other interest groups (Point 2(a) of Annex III of CFP Regulation)
- Up to 25 members – Designations from sector organisations and from other interest groups, respectively (Article 4(4) of Delegated Regulation 2015/242)

## ➤ Appointment

- **Value Supply Chain (60%)**
  - Primary producers (catching) (5 seats): COPA-COGECA, EAPO, Europêche, KFO, Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne
  - Primary producers (aquaculture) (2 seats): EMPA, FEAP
  - Processors, traders, suppliers and retailers (7 seats): ALIF, CONXEMAR, EFFOP, EuroCommerce, FEDEPESCA, PSPR, Seafood Europe
  - Workers (trade unions) (1 seat): ETF
- **Other Interest Groups (40%)**
  - ASC\*, EJF, Good Fish Foundation, MSC\*, Oceana, WWF

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## ➤ Presentation of the candidacies for Chair for the 2026-2029 period

- Appointed by consensus (Point 2 (d) of Annex III of Common Fisheries Policy Regulation)
- Appointed by consensus for a term of three years by members of the General Assembly amongst the members of the General Assembly (Article 20 of Statutes)

## ➤ Appointment

- Expressions of interest sent to the Secretariat:
  - Yobana Bermúdez (Seafood Europe)

# WORKING GROUPS

## ➤ Presentation of the candidacies for Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the 2026-2029 period

- Designation of the Chairs of the Working Groups for a term of three years by the General Assembly (established practice, based on analogical application of rules for the appointment of the MAC Chair)
- Where possible, the Vice-Chair shall be designated from amongst members of the category of sector organisations and other interest groups to which the chairperson does not belong.

## ➤ Appointment

- Expressions of interest sent to the Secretariat:
  - Chair of Working Group 1 – Julien Lamothe (EAPO)
  - Vice-Chair of Working Group 1 – Anne Mette Bæk (EFFOP)
  - Chair of Working Group 2 - Stefan Mayer (Seafood Europe)
  - Vice-Chair of Working Group 2 – Roberto Alonso (ANFACO-CYTMA)
  - Chair of Working Group 3 – Benoît Thomassen (FEAP)
  - Vice-Chair of Working Group 3 – Paulien Prent (Visfederatie)

# WORK PROGRAMME OF YEAR 10 (2025-2026)

## ➤ Presentation of priorities and deliverables

### ▪ Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)

- Operational Year 10 (1 October 2025 – 30 September 2026)
- Preparation by Executive Committee: 1 July 2025
- Submission to DG MARE: 14 July 2025
- Approval by General Assembly: 5 February 2026

## ➤ Presentation of budget

### ▪ Dawlat Bik (Finance Officer)

## ➤ Approval of the work programme and of the annual budget

# WORK PROGRAMME OF YEAR 9 (2024-2025)

## ➤ Reporting on priorities and deliverables

### ▪ Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)

#### ▪ Overarching priorities

- (1) Common Fisheries Policy & Common Market Organisation
- (2) Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments
- (3) Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
- (4) Forced Labour
- (5) European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA)
- (6) Landing Obligation
- (7) Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)
- (8) Fisheries Control Regulation

# WORK PROGRAMME OF YEAR 9 (2024-2025)

## ▪ Planned recommendations:

### 1) Consumer information on fishery and aquaculture products, particularly in the context of the HORECA Sector (jointly with AAC)

- Recommendation on consumer information on fishery and aquaculture products, particularly in the context of the HORECA Sector (23 October 2024)

### 2) Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet

- STECF's Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (2025) (27 March 2025)

### 3) Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation

- Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (2014-2024) (8 July 2025)

### 4) Evaluation Common Market Organisation (under the overall full evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation)

- *In line with the Commission's public consultation, the topic was addressed under the advice on the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy*

### 5) Annual report on the implementation of the landing obligation

- *Due to the lack of developments since the last advice on the topic (September 2025), no new work launched.*

# WORK PROGRAMME OF YEAR 9 (2024-2025)

## 6) Market-related aspects of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation

- Upcoming Delegated Act on Additional Rules for Traceability of Fresh and Frozen Fishery and Aquaculture Products and Marking of Lots (12 March 2025)
- Terms of Reference of the Study on Feasible Traceability Systems and Procedures for Prepared and Preserved Fishery and Aquaculture Products (24 May 2025)

## 7) Work Programme of EUMOFA, including suggestions of case studies and talks

- Suggestions of studies to be integrated in the Work Programme (2025) (1 September 2025)

## 8) Fights against IUU Fishing & Forced Labour, Due diligence

- IUU Fishing in the Outermost Regions (21 May 2025)
- Urgent need for effective implementation of EU import control rules across Member States (23 June 2025)

## 9) Trade (e.g., FTAs, ATQs, GSP)

- Integration of sustainability criteria under the regime of Autonomous Tariff Quotas for certain fishery products (28 April 2025)

## 10) Economic Report on the EU Aquaculture Sector

- STECF's Economic Report on the EU Aquaculture Sector (2025) (18 September 2025)

# WORK PROGRAMME OF YEAR 9 (2024-2025)

## ➤ Reporting on the accounts

- Dawlat Bik (Finance Officer)

## ➤ Approval of the final technical report and financial statement

- Submission to DG MARE: 14 July 2025
- Approval by General Assembly: 5 February 2026

# AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

➤ **AOB**

➤ **Summary of action points**

➤ **End of meeting**