



European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

37/4 Meeting of the Executive Committee

05/02/2019

13.00 – 17.00 hours

Meeting Minutes

Present

Acting Chairperson: Mr Spyridon Ellinas (Cyprus)

Members present: Ms Aulikki Hulmi (Finland)
 Ms Zora Weberova (Slovakia)
 Mr Kálmán Zoltán (Hungary)
 Mr Paul Kiernan (Ireland)
 Ms Khatia Tsilosani (Georgia) partly

Members absent: Ms Galina Jevgrafova (Estonia) (Vice-Chairperson)
 Mr Ali Recep Nazli (Turkey)
 Ms Graziella Romito (Italy) represented at the meeting by
 Ms Silvia Nicoli

REU Secretariat: Ms Ariella Glinni, Secretary of ECA (REU)
 Ms Yuriko Shoji, (REU), Deputy Regional Representative for Europe and
 Central Asia (REU)
 Mr Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader (REU)
 Mr Piotr Wlodarczyk, Agricultural Officer (REU)
 Mr Aron Thuroczy, Monitoring Officer for Strategy Framework and
 Regional Initiatives (REU)
 Ms Elmira Nessipbayeva, Planning and Programme Officer (REU)
 Ms Zsofia Horvath, Meeting and Programme Assistant (REU)

Agenda:

- 1. Preparation of the 41st ECA in 2019, including strategic thinking on improving modalities, impact and strategic engagement (37/4-2)**
- 2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture (37/4-3)**
- 3. Preparation of the Informal Consultation (IC) in May 2019 (37/4-4)**
- 4. Review and recommendations on REU Work Programme 2018-19 – Regional Initiative 2 on Improving agrifood trade and market integration in Europe and Central Asia (37/5)**
- 5. Workplan and Meeting Schedule of the ECA Executive Committee (37/3-6)**
- 6. Any other business**

The Meeting was opened by the Acting -Chairperson, Mr Spyridon Ellinas who welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the third meeting after the 40th Session of the ECA.

The Members agreed with the draft agenda for the meeting as distributed by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 1: Preparation of the 41st ECA in 2019, including strategic thinking on improving modalities, impact and strategic engagement (37/4-2)

Ms Ariella Glinni summarized the overall status of preparation process for the 41st ECA in 2019 and presented the draft Annotated Agenda and foreseen schedule of sessions. Mr Piotr Włodarczyk introduced the technical topic and elements of the Session.

Ms Glinni informed the Members of the Executive Committee that 2 possible dates for the Session were identified: 26-27 September and 1-2 October 2019. However, the September date would coincide with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) meetings, including the EPPO Council, which may influence the availability of EPPO representatives and some participants intending to attend both plant health related regional meetings.

The Members confirmed their agreement with the draft Annotated Agenda and appreciated the high quality document. Members proposed:

- To include guiding questions into the background documents to facilitate the discussions;
- To send an official message from the Secretariat to the ExCom Members requesting the preference of relevant Ministries on the date of the 41st ECA Session.

Action:

Secretariat to send out an email to Members requesting their preference on the proposed two possible dates for the ECA Session.

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the recommendations of the Assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture (37/4-3)

Ms Glinni presented the key points emerging from the ECA Ex Com Ad Hoc meeting of 29 October 2018, where ExCom and ERG members discussed the implementation of the ECA Assessment's recommendations.

Members proposed to continue the discussion on the implementation of the ECA Assessment's recommendations, preferably on a Europe Regional Group (ERG) meeting, inviting the Member countries of FAO REU region who are not members of the ERG group, and Ms Ariella Glinni, Secretary of the ECA. Members also suggested that the Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia in mid-May 2019 could offer an opportunity for further discussions on this topic.

Action:

Secretariat remains available to join the ERG meeting upon invitation, when the ECA Assessment's recommendations will be discussed within the ERG agenda.

Agenda item 4: Preparation of the Informal Consultation (IC) in May 2019 (37/4-4)

Mr Aron Thuroczy briefly summarized the draft Agenda and session schedule of the Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia, which will take place in Budapest from 16 to 17 May 2019.

Ms Glinni highlighted that the next ExCom meeting is foreseen to be back-to-back to the Informal Consultation, preferably on the second day, 17 May, after concluding the meeting.

The Members confirmed their agreement with the draft Agenda and appreciated the high quality document. Members proposed to discuss the implementation of the ECA Assessment's recommendations under the agenda item related to the ECA, "Agenda of the 41st Session of the ECA".

Action:

ECA and IC Secretariat to consider the update and discussion on the ECA Assessment's recommendations under the agenda items related to the ECA, at the Informal Consultation.

Agenda item 5: Review and recommendations on REU Work Programme 2018-19 – Regional Initiative 2 on Improving agrifood trade and market integration in Europe and Central Asia (37/4-5)

Ms Ariella Glinni introduced the Regional Initiative 2 on Improving agrifood trade and market integration in Europe and Central Asia (RI2).

Overall, the Members expressed their appreciation and support to the RI2 and interest in receiving any additional documents on the initiative.

Action:

No action needed.

Agenda item 6: Workplan and Meeting Schedule of the ECA Executive Committee (37/4-6)

The Secretariat presented the Ex Com time schedule and session plan for the current biennium up to the 41st Session of the ECA, with no changes from the last version presented at the second Ex Com meeting.

The Secretariat highlighted that the next meeting of the ExCom is foreseen to be back-to-back to the Informal Consultation in May, preferably on 17 May.

Action:

No action needed

Agenda item 7: Any other business

Members raised the issue of the organization and preparation process of the 32nd Regional Conference for Europe (ERC). To answer the questions of Executive Committee members, the Secretariat:

- Informed the Members that the 32nd ERC is scheduled to take place from 5 to 7 May 2020 and no official offer was made yet to host the event;
- Summarized the required steps to make an official offer to host the event;
- Explained the involvement of the ECA ExCom and of the ERG in preparing the Annotated Agenda of the 32nd ERC.

Mr Kiernan confirmed to the Members and the Secretariat that Ireland is currently considering to host the 32nd Session of the ERC, and was collecting all relevant information on organizational matters and preparing a detailed business plan before making the final step to make a formal offer.

Action:

No action needed

Closing of the Session:

The Acting-Chairperson thanked the Ex Com members for their participation and contribution, as well as the Secretariat for the good preparation of background documents and their support throughout the meeting.