



European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

37/5 Meeting of the Executive Committee

17 May 2019,

15 – 17 hours

Budapest, Hungary, Ministry of Agriculture

DRAFT Progress Report on Main Recommendations of 40th Session of the Europe Commission on Agriculture (40th ECA)

1. Preparation of the 41st ECA Session in 2019, including strategic thinking on improving modalities, impact and strategic engagement (37/5-4)

In line with the preliminary agenda (37/5-2) and draft schedule (37/5-3) for 41st Session of the ECA (41st ECA) (1-2 October 2019), the Session foresees an update on the **Progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the main recommendations of the 40th ECA** (27-28 September 2017).

This 41st ECA agenda item is foreseen to focus on main updates, in particular on a) progress made on anti-microbial resistance and b) follow-up regarding the recommendations of the 2017 Assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture. It is envisaged that, on this basis, Members will review the progress made and provide guidance for further implementation.

With references to the modalities on reporting on progress made related to the recommendations of the 40th ECA, Executive Committee Members may share their views and proposals on appropriate modalities for reporting back to the ECA Sessions on progress made in the intersessional periods, in particular:

- i. Concerning the progress made on anti-microbial resistance and other recommendations of the 40th ECA which focussed on Animal Health, Climate Change and related issues, it is proposed to summarize highlights, as indicated below.
 - In accordance with the **ECA/40/17/3 recommendations** on effects of climate change on animal diseases, trade and food security in the REU, Member States are in the process of development or revision of existing surveillance and control policies for transboundary animal diseases (TADs), in line with institutional and legal reforms of veterinary services. In particular, some countries¹ supported capacity building initiatives, preparation of manuals, and conducted simulation exercises to promote practical implementation of One Health² and animal informatics. Western Balkan countries raised awareness on climate change impact among policy makers, farmers, veterinarians and created public communication programmes; in particular on TAD issues such as prevention and control of Lumpy skin disease, bluetongue and other vector-borne diseases.

¹ Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Kyrgyzstan; Moldova; Tajikistan; Ukraine and Uzbekistan

² One Health is an integrated approach for preventing and mitigating health threats at the Animal-Human-Plant-Environment interfaces with the objective of achieving public health, food and nutrition security, sustainable ecosystems and fair trade facilitation.



- In line with **recommendations of the ECA/40/17/4** on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the loss of a major defence to the emerging challenge, REU member countries are contributing in raising awareness on AMR and promote behavioural change through public communication programmes; improving surveillance and monitoring, including collection of data on incidence, prevalence and trends, to better understand and respond to AMR patterns and their drivers; strengthening governance for stronger hygiene and infection prevention measures, including animal vaccination; launching activities to explore and promote best practices in the prudent use of antibiotics in both intensive and extensive livestock production systems; and launching review and harmonization of legislation on antimicrobial use in agriculture including ban on use antimicrobials in prevention of infectious diseases in line with DCFTA.
- ii. With respect to the recommendations of the 2017 Assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture, follow-up actions were reviewed during the ad-hoc ExCom meeting held on 29 October 2018, with participation of ERG members³. It was noted that the Executive Committee had adopted Plant Health as the main theme for the 41st Session of the ECA, in line with the recommendations of the Assessment and the format already successfully adopted for the 40th ECA, as well as considering that the year 2020 will be the International Year of Plant Health. The meeting concurred on a set of guidance and suggestions, focusing on the preparation and the format of the 41st ECA Session, the foreseen enhanced level of participation and Session background documents, contributing directly to the ongoing preparation process. Member may provide views on the format and level of details for reporting on the ECA assessment follow-up and suitable timeframes.
- iii. In addition, in line with prior ECA Session recommendations, members may note the following regular updating on progress:
- ECA sessions include, as a standing item, the report on progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in advancing gender equality (SDG 5) in the region (i.e. under ECA agenda item 7) and on activities carried out to support rural women in income diversification, entrepreneurship and rural crafts in the framework of the Regional Initiative for strengthening agrifood trade and market integration, contributing to FAO's Strategic Objective to build more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems.
 - ECA Executive Committee meeting reports and related background documents, in line with the [ECA and Ex Com inter-sessional workplan](#) are made available on the dedicated FAO website and the preparations for the ECA session are pursued in a consultative manner. The ECA priorities for 2020-21 will be based on the 41st Session of ECA.
 - The ECA is directly linked to the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) and outcomes of its deliberations are submitted to the ERC for policy discussion and adoption, and further submission to FAO Governing bodies, as required.

³ Add link to this ExCom meeting report and ECA assessment report (short version as presented to the 40th ECA) ECA/40/17/7 Web annex: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt620e.pdf>



Ex Com members may share their views on the format and level of details of reporting deemed appropriate considering the Ex Com and Secretariat functions and responsibilities.