

Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Zagreb, 17–20 May 2010



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ISBN 978-92-5-106709-3

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The present text is the final version of the report presented on 20 May 2010 to the delegates of the Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission.

FAO.

Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission.

Zagreb, 17–20 May 2010.

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 955. Rome, FAO. 2010. 40p.

ABSTRACT

The Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 17 to 20 May 2010. The Session reviewed EIFAC's activities since 2008 in the fields of fishery biology and management, aquaculture, protection of the aquatic environment and social and economic issues. The Session deliberated on the options for the restructuring and improving of the functioning of the Commission and decided that EIFAC should continue as a fishery body under Article VI of the FAO Constitution but with an improved structure and modernized Rules of Procedure, subject to endorsement of these decisions by the FAO Council and the Director-General of FAO. All Working Parties and Sub-Commissions were abolished and it was decided to adopt a project approach for future work in relevant fields. The Twenty-seventh Session will be held in 2012.

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OFFICERS OF EIFAC

Chairperson:	T. Brenner
First Vice-Chairperson:	N. Skakelja
Second Vice-Chairperson:	C. Gallagher
Chairperson of the Technical and Scientific Committee:	G. Castelnaud
Secretary:	G. Marmulla

Mr Petri Heinimaa (Finland), Mr Arne Eggereide (Norway), Mr Ion Navodaru (Romania), Ms Aylin Velioglu (Turkey) and Mr Miran Aprahamian (United Kingdom) were elected as additional members of the Executive Committee which will become the *ad interim* Management Committee as soon as the EIFAC members adopt the new "Rules of Procedure" with at least a two-thirds majority.

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 17 to 20 May 2010 under the Chairmanship of Mr Phil Hickley. The Session was attended by 35 representatives from 21 Members of the Commission and by one observer from the Russian Federation. The list of participants forms Appendix B to this report.

2. The welcoming speech of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development was delivered by Mr Tonči Božanič, Secretary of State of the Ministry, who opened the Session and welcomed all delegates to Croatia. His address is included in Appendix D.

3. The Head of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) delegation, Mr Jean-François Pulvenis de Séligny, Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division, welcomed the participants in the name of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and of the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Ichiro Nomura. His statement is included in Appendix D.

4. The Chairperson of EIFAC, Mr Phil Hickley, expressed his deep appreciation to the Government of Croatia for hosting this Session and commended the local organizers for all their efforts. He referred to the need to enhance the relevance of EIFAC to the management and advisory challenges of modern times and underscored the importance and uniqueness of EIFAC within the pan-European context. His address is included in Appendix D.

5. The Agenda which appears as Appendix A was adopted. The documents which were placed before the Commission are listed in Appendix C.

II. REVIEW OF THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF SUB-COMMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS

SUB-COMMISSION I – BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

6. Mr Tomás Brenner (Germany), Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, informed the Sub-Commission on the progress of the Sub-Commission. The report of the activities was submitted to the Session as EIFAC/XXVI/2010/2. EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.5 provided details of the work carried out by the Joint EIFAC/ICES *Ad hoc* Working Party on Eel.

Joint EIFAC/ICES *Ad Hoc* Working Party on Eel (Convener: R. Poole)

7. The Working Party (WP) met twice in the intersessional period, i.e. in Leuven, Belgium, in September 2008 and in Gothenburg, Sweden, in September 2009. Reports for each meeting are available on both the EIFAC and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Websites. The main focus of the WP was in documenting the status of the eel stocks and fisheries and examining methods of stock assessment and post-evaluation at the international level. A summary of the recommendations from these meetings was presented to the Session as follows:

- since, for biological reasons, recovery will be a long-term process, all anthropogenic mortality should be reduced to as close to zero as possible until the recovery of the stock is achieved.
- The eel management plans and their associated data, and data from other European Union (EU) Directives, should be made available to the WP. Gaps in the data and in the methods should be identified and addressed to allow international assessment and post-evaluation of the stock.

- Noting the urgent need to plan and co-ordinate data collection and for development of assessment tools for the EU evaluation in 2012, it is urgently recommended that this be co-ordinated at the international level.

8. The WP also updated the eel quality database and presented advances in stocking, reviewed eel quality data and provided advice on optimizing the spawning output in the light of declining recruitment.

9. The Convener informed that this is his last year as Convener and thanked the WP members and EIFAC for their support and collaboration. The Chair thanked Mr Poole for his excellent work as Convener of the WP.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters (Convener: P. Hickley)

10. The revised draft standard *Water Quality – Guidance on the Estimation of Fish Abundance with Mobile Hydroacoustic Methods* received a positive vote from the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) membership for status as provisional European Normalized Standard. Inter-calibration fieldwork is scheduled for late 2010 or 2011.

11. The Convener of the WP assisted with the editing of the conference proceedings of the conference on Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs which was held in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, in 2007. They were published as a special issue of *Fisheries Research*. It is intended to provide similar support to the forthcoming conference on Fish Sampling with Active Methods, Ceske Budejovice, 8–11 September 2010 (www.fsam2010.wz.cz).

Ad Hoc Working Party on Introductions and Stocking (Convener: I. Cowx)

12. In line with the agreement during the Twenty-fifth Session in Antalya, Turkey, the WP used the EU FP6 funded project entitled “Impact of alien species in aquaculture” (IMPASSE) as a vehicle for delivering the work programme. The outputs of the project are available at <http://www2.hull.ac.uk/discover/hifi/impasse/documents.aspx>.

13. The Convener of the WP provided expert advice to the EU on implementation of the Council Regulation 708/2007 on “Use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture”. The WP was involved in the conference entitled Management of Alien Species for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries (<http://www.dbag.unifi.it/maliaf/>), held in Florence, Italy, in November 2008, and members of the WP made a number of presentations. The proceedings of the conference will be published in a special issue of *Applied Ichthyology* during 2010.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Sturgeon (Convener: M. Chebanov)

14. During the intersessional period, emphasis was given to work on two FAO sturgeon-related projects as follows:

- “Capacity building for the recovery and management of the sturgeon fisheries of the Caspian Sea” (TCP/INT/3101);
- “Recovery of sturgeon population in Turkey: habitat assessment and restocking” (TCP/TUR/3202).

15. Other activities of the WP included publication of the book *Ultrasound diagnostics in sturgeon broodstock management* (M. Chebanov and E. Galich) in November 2009; participation in the World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS) Board of Directors Meeting and the General Assembly 2009; participation in the 6th International Symposium on Sturgeons in Wuhan, China; involvement in the assessment of the status of different sturgeon species in accordance with the updated International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) “Red List”; and two sturgeon projects in the Republic of

Armenia and in the Republic of Moldova, aiming at building capacity of sturgeon aquaculture in these countries.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Fish Passage Best Practices (Convener: A. Zitek)

16. Little progress has been made in achieving the set targets of the WP. However, WP members contributed to the preparation of a guideline for building fish passes in Austria which could be an important contribution to the EIFAC natural fish pass guidelines for which work has resumed by selected experts again.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality (Convener: R. Fricke)

17. No progress report was received. The Commission decided to discontinue this WP in the absence of an active Convener.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Crayfish (Convener: M. Pursiainen)

18. The first meeting of the WP was held in connection with the Regional European Crayfish Workshop Future of Native Crayfish in Europe, 7–10 September 2009, in Pisek, Czech Republic. The meeting approved a first recommendation from the WP to EIFAC that suggested encouraging improved collection of statistical information on freshwater crayfish species in the EIFAC member countries.

19. The preliminary programme of the WP, up to 2012, includes two other meetings. One in connection with the Workshop European Crayfish: Food, Flagships and Ecosystem Services held in Poitiers, France. A second, planned for 2011, in Finland, will deal with responsible management, communication and diseases.

20. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

SUB-COMMISSION II – AQUACULTURE

21. Mr L. Váradi (Hungary), Chairperson of this Sub-Commission, introduced the progress report on intersessional activities of this Sub-Commission as presented in EIFAC/XXVI/2010/3.

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health (Convener: E. Hudson)

22. No report from the Convener had been received during the intersessional period. Despite efforts to re-vitalize this WP, there were no outputs by this WP for many years. The 2009 Meeting of the Executive Committee of EIFAC recommended the closure of this WP which was agreed and adopted by the Session.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture (Convener: M. Verdegem)

23. The Convener had confirmed that the Wageningen Aquaculture Team continued to work on the subject, however, no new Working Group was formed for the purposes of this WP. Mr Verdegem had indicated his wish to resign as Convener of this WP. The Chairperson proposed that this WP be discontinued, which was agreed and adopted by the Session.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture (Convener: L. Váradi)

24. The Convener confirmed that the proposed Freshwater Fish Marketing Workshop will be organized in August 2010 in conjunction with the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) Directors Meeting to be held in Tyumen, the Russian Federation, with the support from the FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest. The Convener proposed that this activity be closed as EIFAC activity, however that it might be continued in the context of collaboration between NACEE, FAO, International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) and the European Commission. This proposal was accepted by the Session.

Eastern European Affairs: Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) (Convener: L. Váradi)

25. The Convener, Mr Váradi, who is also the focal point of NACEE, regularly communicated with FAO Fishery Officers in Budapest and Ankara to explore possibilities regarding inter-regional collaboration in aquaculture development between Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Caucasus. He proposed that this activity be closed as EIFAC activity, however, that it would possibly continue as collaborative effort by NACEE and FAO. This proposal was accepted by the Session.

26. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

SUB-COMMISSION III – PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC RESOURCE

27. Mr G. Castelnaud (France), Chairperson of this Sub-Commission, introduced the progress report on intersessional activities of this Sub-Commission as presented in EIFAC/XXVI/2010/4.

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture (Convener: R. Rösch)

28. The 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee invited the Convener to prepare the expected EIFAC Position Statement on animal welfare issues in inland fisheries and aquaculture for presentation at the Twenty-sixth Session. Since then, no further update had been received. The Session took note.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation (Convener: P. Heinimaa)

29. The information collected on interactions between cormorant and fisheries is not yet available, but will be published as INTERCAFE¹ project reports by mid-2010. A closer co-operation on cormorant-fisheries interactions between the countries around the Baltic Sea is being prepared. Given recent decisions regarding the proposed European cormorant management plan it was suggested that the first point of the WP's TORs be changed into: "develop a pan-European cormorant action plan". The Session accepted this proposal.

Ad Hoc Working Party on EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (Convener: C. Argillier)

30. The analysis of possible inconsistencies between the national laws and the Water Framework Directive (WFD), as regards ichthyofauna, has been continued by the WP but more detailed information collected became available only for Finland, Italy and France. This work is being summarized. The WP members faced difficulties in identifying information sources and contacts. For

¹ Interdisciplinary Initiative to Reduce Pan-European Cormorant-Fisheries Conflicts (INTERCAFE)

future work it will be necessary to mobilize people outside the scientific community, and the Commission was invited to consider ways in helping the WP to identify people in the Ministries in charge of the relevant legal aspects. The Session took note.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Climate Change and Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

31. The Chairperson recalled that the 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee had decided that the WP on Climate Change be allocated to Sub-Commission III. He suggested that the topic is very important and be given highest priority in the future work programme of EIFAC. The Chairperson added that the mandate of the WP should be extended to address global change and its consequences upon resources and upon fisheries and aquaculture.

32. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

SUB-COMMISSION IV – SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

33. In the absence of Mr I. Cowx (UK), Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Mr P. Hickley (Chairperson of EIFAC) introduced the progress report on intersessional activities of the Sub-Commission as presented in EIFAC/XXVI/2010/5.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Recreational Fisheries (Convener: R. Arlinghaus)

34. The WP disseminated the *Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries*. This Code has been translated into Croatian, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian and published on the EIFAC Website.² The Code in the Russian language is also available in hard copy.

35. Monitoring on key research has continued including on international participation rates in recreational fisheries. A forthcoming report will show that angling participation has likely reached a ceiling in central Europe and is expected to grow substantially in Eastern Europe.

36. The WP contributed to the below mentioned methodological guidelines for assessing benefits of inland fisheries.

37. The Convener will continue to monitor the EU calls for placement of a proposal on a Pan-European study on the social and economic importance of recreational fisheries.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries (Convener: M. Sipponen)

38. The development of a draft of methodologies for the undertaking of social and economic surveys on recreational and commercial fisheries was carried out in collaboration with the above WP. This draft was discussed during a Workshop held on January 2009 which refined the methodologies for submission to the Commission as document EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.6.

39. The Commission commended the technical content of the methodologies, and recommended that the title of the document be *Methodologies for Assessing Social and Economic Benefits of European Inland Recreational Fisheries*. The methodologies were endorsed by the Commission for publication as an EIFAC Occasional Paper. A summary will also be published in the *Journal of Fisheries Management and Ecology*.

40. The report on information on property rights for inland commercial fisheries will be published this year.

² <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0363e/i0363e00.htm>. Further publications and dissemination avenues are included in Appendix E

Ad Hoc Working Party on IUU Fishing and Poaching (Convener: P. Stachowiak)

41. In light of its inactivity, the Commission decided to close the WP.

Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture

42. The Report of the Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture was published and made available on-line (for the link see Appendix E). The Session thanked the Turkish host and FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia for their work in convening and disseminating the results of the Symposium.

43. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

III. OPTIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING AND IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF EIFAC

44. Ms Judith Swan, FAO Consultant, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the review of options for the long-term improvement of EIFAC, based on the Decision Paper (EIFAC/XXVI/2010/6) and the Options Paper (EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.4). She addressed, *inter alia*, the background and institutional structure of EIFAC, global developments in the role of regional fishery bodies (RFBs), the mandate and processes for establishing FAO RFBs, financial and institutional implications and the need for objectives and a mission statement for a reformed EIFAC. She presented and elaborated options for reform which had been identified at the January 2010 Workshop to Review the Functioning of EIFAC held in Mainz, Germany.

45. These options were to: a) continue EIFAC as a FAO Article VI body, but with improved structure and Rules of Procedure, taking into account a "0" growth budget scenario; or b) convert EIFAC into a FAO Article XIV body with an independent budget provided by the Members of EIFAC for operations and staffing; or c) abolish EIFAC. Ms Swan drew the attention of the delegations to the draft legal instruments appended to the Decision Paper that had been prepared as a starting point for consideration of the first two options in order to facilitate understanding and timely agreement on the way forward.

46. The delegates were invited to consider and decide on:

- the future legal basis of EIFAC, including advising or deciding on the content of the relevant supporting legal documentation;
- the reform of the EIFAC institutional structure to a project-based organization;
- the relevant financial considerations; and
- any other necessary process or requirements that may be needed to support the decision.

47. In the discussion following the presentation by Ms Swan, clarification was sought by delegates on a range of issues relating to FAO constitutional and legal matters as well as on financial aspects related to provision of funds and resources to FAO RFBs, both from FAO itself and from Members of these bodies. The Secretariat addressed these issues in order to provide the relevant explanations and information.

48. Other questions raised were related to the need for specific actions that would underpin the reform of EIFAC, including the adoption of a project-based approach. In this respect, some delegates emphasized that there should be increased political and administrative awareness and financial support at the level of Members, so as to ensure the adequate level of Members' commitment and participation

in the work of the Commission. It was also underscored that Members should take the responsibility to clearly identify priorities for EIFAC work, and maintain a focus on issues of general interest shared by all Members in the region. Importantly, on a broader level, it was recognized that the development by the Members of a work programme for the Commission, taking into account priority issues identified by them, would be essential for a reformed EIFAC.

49. Delegations of EU member countries present at the Session were called by the representative of Spain, whose country currently holds the presidency of the EU, to attend coordination meetings on the options for restructuring and improving the functioning of EIFAC.

50. Delegations fully supported the continuation of EIFAC because of the important role it has played over many years in European inland fisheries and aquaculture. They expressed their preference for its continuation as FAO Article VI body taking into account the costs and benefits to Members in the current economic climate. Transformation to a project-oriented organization was also favoured, and it was agreed that scenarios that support such reform should be explored. In particular, delegations believed it would be necessary to maintain a strong place for EIFAC in the FAO Regular Programme budget whilst considering mechanisms for voluntary contributions. Several delegations, however, advised that they were not currently in a position to contribute any funds to the Commission at this time. In addition, the delegations considered it necessary that a direct line of access between EIFAC and the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) be established.

51. The possibility of a future change of circumstances was contemplated, and delegations agreed that no options should be closed for the future. Delegations agreed to address this by requiring a review of the effectiveness of a reformed EIFAC upon the completion of a period of three years after the reforms had been approved by FAO.

52. Delegations reviewed the objectives for a reformed EIFAC proposed at the Mainz Workshop, and agreed that they are to:

- promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation, management, protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues in a rapid and accountable manner as requested by Members;
- provide advice to managers/decision makers of inland fisheries and aquaculture as requested based on scientific, social, economic, legal and other factors; and
- serve as a forward-looking international platform for the collation, validation dissemination and consideration of information on common challenges and opportunities to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to this end, *inter alia*, proactively identify:
 - relevant scientific, social, economic, legal, statistical and other information and make recommendations for decision makers taking into account the need to protect and preserve the aquatic ecosystems; and
 - common problems and solutions, and harmonized approaches as appropriate.

53. Delegations adopted the following EIFAC mission statement:

The mission of EIFAC is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals through:

- providing advice, information and coordination;

- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- the delivery of effective research.

54. Delegations agreed to the amendments of the EIFAC instruments, namely FAO Council Resolution 2/26 which established EIFAC and the Rules of Procedure as amended in 1998, to reflect the agreed objectives and mission statement, and a project approach through the establishment of a Management Committee and a Technical and Scientific Committee. This is, however, subject to endorsement of these decisions by the Director-General and the Council. All existing subsidiary bodies, i.e. Sub-Commissions, *ad hoc* Working Parties and Liaison Groups, were abolished.

55. The delegations completed a first reading of the indicative draft Council Resolution and the indicative draft Rules of Procedure provided in Appendix 2 and Appendix 5 to the Decision Paper respectively, and could reach a tentative consensus on the texts which are reproduced in Appendix F and Appendix G of this report. The delegations noted the need for a further reading of these texts which should be adopted by the Commission by a two thirds majority of its membership before being submitted to the FAO Director-General and Council for its final adoption.

56. During the first reading, delegations identified a need for definitions or a glossary to define key words.

57. The delegations noted that the restructuring had been under consideration for the past two years, and that, given the immediate need for EIFAC to function in a modern and effective manner, decided that the reform cannot be delayed any longer. It was acknowledged that transition arrangements should be made with respect to the work so far carried out under the Working Parties.

58. To that end, it was agreed that *ad interim* arrangements for restructuring should be established immediately in accordance with the draft Council Resolution and draft Rules of Procedure reviewed during the Session. It was acknowledged that this would be subject to approval by the FAO Director-General and Council. This would involve the establishment of the *ad interim* Management Committee and Technical and Scientific Committee in accordance with the draft Council Resolution and Rules of Procedure.

59. Delegations discussed possible support for a restructured EIFAC and related projects. It was noted that project support by Members could be made through contributions of funding or human resources.

60. The delegations firmly recommended that FAO support a full-time Secretary, and to this end agreed to save money in other areas including on translation and interpretation costs through use of one official language in future. They also requested FAO to reallocate any other funds that may be saved as appropriate.

61. It was made clear by the Secretariat that, in view of the FAO Immediate Plan of Action, the FAO/FI 2009 Position Statement and related developments, it was unlikely that the FAO Regular Programme budget would be able to accommodate such support.

62. It was agreed that the *ad interim* Management Committee would replace the Executive Committee and carry out the functions agreed in the draft Rules of Procedure.

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF EIFAC

63. The delegations recognized that, until the proposed reforms have entered into force, *ad interim* transition arrangements are needed for the continuation, improvement, amendment, implementation and development of the Programme of Work. In particular, appropriate activities as discussed under Agenda Item II for continuation shall be converted into projects under the guidance and clearance of

the Technical and Scientific Committee. The Technical and Scientific Committee was requested by the Commission to ensure that this conversion is carried out in a timely and efficient manner.

V. ANY OTHER MATTERS

64. Referring to the report of the Twenty-fifth Session the Commission recognized the importance of country reports and asked that the Technical and Scientific Committee considers this when developing its work programme and liaise with Mr Sedat Yerli (Turkey) regarding this issue.

VI. ELECTION OF EIFAC OFFICERS

65. The Commission elected Mr Tomás Brenner (Germany) as Chairperson of EIFAC as well as Ms Neda Skakelja (Croatia) and Mr Cathal Gallagher (Ireland) as First and Second Vice-Chairperson respectively. The Session recognized that according to the draft Rules of Procedure, once adopted by at least a two-thirds majority of the EIFAC members, these Officers will also serve the *ad interim* Management Committee as Chair and Vice-Chairs respectively. In addition, Mr Petri Heinimaa (Finland), Mr Arne Eggereide (Norway), Mr Ion Navodaru (Romania), Ms Aylin Velioglu (Turkey) and Mr Miran Arahamian (United Kingdom) were elected as additional members of the Executive Committee which will become the *ad interim* Management Committee.

66. The Commission elected Mr Gérard Castelnaud (France) as Chair of the Technical and Scientific Committee. The Technical and Scientific Committee is open to Experts from all Members of the Commission. Mr Castelnaud's statement is provided in Appendix H.

67. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the outgoing Chairperson and Officers as well as to its Secretary and to other members of the Secretariat.

VII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

68. The Finnish Delegation informed the Session of Finland's intention to host the Twenty-seventh Session of EIFAC and an associated Symposium in 2012. The date will be determined by the Director-General of FAO in consultation with the Chairperson of EIFAC.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

69. The report of the Session was adopted on 20 May 2010. The Session was closed at 16:20 hrs.

APPENDIX A

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Review of the Intersessional Activities of Sub-Commissions and Adoption of the Reports**
- 3. Options for Restructuring and Improving the Functioning of EIFAC**
 - Statutory status of new EIFAC:
 - FAO Article VI Regional Fisheries Body
 - FAO Article XIV Regional Fisheries Body
 - Abolish
 - Structure and functions
 - Rules and Procedures
- 4. Programme of Work of EIFAC**
- 5. Any Other Matters**
- 6. Election of EIFAC Officers**
- 7. Date and Place of the Twenty-seventh Session**
- 8. Adoption of the Report and Closing of the Session**

APPENDIX B**List of participants****MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION****ALBANIA**

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APPENDIX C**List of documents**

EIFAC/XXVI/2010/1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/2	Summary of Progress Report Sub-Commission I
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/3	Summary of Progress Report Sub-Commission II
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/4	Summary of Progress Report Sub-Commission III
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/5	Summary of Progress Report Sub-Commission IV
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/6	Decision Paper: Options for the Long-term Improvement of EIFAC
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.3	Provisional Session Schedule
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.4	Options Paper: Review of the Functioning of EIFAC and Options for the Long-term Improvement
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.5	Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Group on Eel – Comprehensive Working Report for the Period March 2009 – February 2010
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.6	Technical Guidelines for Assessing Social and Economic Benefits of European Inland Recreational Fisheries
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.7	List of EIFAC National Correspondents
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.8	Opening Addresses
EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.9	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union and its Member States

APPENDIX D**Opening addresses**

**Address by Mr Tonći Božanic, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Rural Development, on behalf of
His Excellency, Mr Petar Čobankovič
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Representatives of FAO and EIFAC, Dear Colleagues and Country Representatives,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you all on behalf of the Government of Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development and myself at the Twenty-sixth Session of EIFAC, which is to be hosted for the first time in Croatia, here in Zagreb. I would like to extend my greatest appreciation to the FAO and EIFAC staff, for their effort in organization of this meeting. I am aware of all the difficulties, some of which were caused by a vulcano far to the north. Whatever the constrains, I firmly believe that the willingness and the comitment – which is what counts in the end, and has always been the most prominent characheristic of the FAO – have to be comended, supported and followed.

As I have mentioned the vulcano, let me briefly come back to its significance. Although we are far away from the vulcanoes, it seems that nature may not be easily harnessed. It is a strong reminder of the forces that govern the events in the world we live in. We may try and pretend to be the masters, but nature finds its way of reminding us that this is the planet we do not own – we only temporarily borrow it from the ones before just to keep it safe for the ones who are yet to come. This is something that should not be forgotten. And it applies to the fisheries just as much – if not more – as to other sectors of human activities.

Recession and global financial crises came along with climate changes, global warming and pollution, and all these factors take great impact on our fisheries sector. This sector is of great importance, not only nowadays, but more in the future of this planet. Facing the increase of world population, bad or unbalanced nutrition in many countries leads to a need of immediate strengthening of food production and alternative food resources. In order to eliminate the negative effects of mentioned problems, as well as the effects of overfishing, illegal fishing and decreasing of fish stocks, we need to develop a long-term sustainable fisheries sector in Europe which could be implemented on national, regional and international level.

Unlike marine fisheries sector, today there is no common European inland fisheries policy. This in practice means that every country has to design its own regulations. Therefore we need a strong international forum for exchanging informations on biology and management, aquaculture, protection of aquatic resources and socio-economic issues, both on scientific and decision-making level. So far, EIFAC represented a unique organization which deals with those issues in Europe. For many years, EIFAC designed and initiated many activites through its sub-commissions in order to create a sustainable development of inland fisheries. Where do we go in the future, is the question at hand. I believe that EIFAC should continue to provide support to both scientists and governments, and I am convinced that your discussions during the next days shall result in a defined framework for EIFAC's future actions.

Croatia has a long tradition of aquaculture and fishing. We have rich inland waters resources ranging from the Alps, through wide ciprinid river valleys of rivers Sava and Danube all the way to the Karst Adriatic region with its superior salmonid waters. Croatia is currently in the process of designing new freshwater fisheries act, which will improve fisheries management, aquaculture and fisheries inspection on our inland waters. Croatian inland aquaculture used to produce almost 15 000 tons 20 or

30 years ago, and now it is struggling to regain its value and markets. Sports fisheries are also searching their place on the fisheries tourism map of Europe, switching from pure exploitation to sustainable management, restocking and protection based on scientific data. Croatia tries to maintain the traditional commercial fisheries as well, these being one of cultural heritage trademarks of some areas. However, ballancing all these elements and needs is not a simple task. Managing fisheries is not just about managing fish stocks – it is about managing people who live off fisheries as well. Finding the thin line that may be called sustainability is an issue I am sure we are all facing. And in discussing such issues, in finding solutions, I believe EIFAC has its place and role.

The task at hand is the discussion about the future. It may not be easy, it may entail some discussions and choices. But I am convinced that there is a way forward, provided that we all make an effort in defining our goals, our priorities and our capacities in all aspects, both now and in the future. Let us not forget – the decisions we make today will only be felt in a decade. So let us try and think a decade from today, where do we all see our freshwater fisheries, and where and how do we see EIFAC .

Distinguished Participants,

I believe that the conclusions which will be brought after this session, will be of great importance for the future of EIFAC. Therefore I wish you all creative and successful work in this beautiful venue, offering all the support you need.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I wish you a pleasant stay in Zagreb and Croatia. Thank you for your attention.

**Address by Mr Jean-François Pulvenis de Séligny,
Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division,
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department**

Mr Božanic
Mr Chairperson
Distinguished Delegates
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is for me a great pleasure and honor to welcome you to this Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and of the Assistant Director General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Ichiro Nomura.

First of all, let me express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Croatia, in particular to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, for its generous hospitality and the excellent arrangements it has made to create a most favourable environment for our work.

This is particularly important when we consider the special character of this Session of the Commission. More than fifty years have elapsed since the establishment of the Commission in 1957. Time has come to review its role, mission and performance and to take decisions with regards to its future.

We must recognize that the Commission is at a crossroads. This is true also of FAO itself, which has been undertaking a thorough and comprehensive process of reform and restructuring. As an illustration, let me mention that, in the case of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department the so-called “delaying” that was part of the process led to the abolition of four service Chief positions and one Director position and the consolidation of the three existing divisions into two.

The regional fishery bodies (RFBs) that have been established in the framework of FAO remain high in the agenda of the Organization and its Committee on Fisheries (COFI). Their activities and the support that must be provided to them forms an integral part of the newly defined strategic objective and organizational results, which have been discussed among the FAO members and approved by them.

However, two elements must be taken into account. First, the additional constraints that the FAO RFBs are facing in terms of available resources and support.

Secondly, in the case of EIFAC, the considerable political, social, economic, technological and environmental changes which took place since its establishment in 1957. In spite of these changes, no modification was ever introduced in the mandate of the Commission, and its structure and functioning were only marginally altered in a process that started in 1992.

As a reference and starting point, we must recognize that during more than half a century, the Commission has done a good and valuable work. To mention only some recent examples, we may recall the provision of advice on the management and recovery of the European eel through the Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Party on Eel; the exchange of information on aquaculture issues through the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE); the development and publication of the Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries developed by the Working Party on Recreational Fisheries.

In addition to this important legacy it must be stressed that EIFAC is the only intergovernmental body which deals with inland fisheries and aquaculture in the whole area under its competence, taking also

into account those countries which are not yet Members of the Commission but can become Members and might decide to do so.

It is therefore worthwhile that the Members of EIFAC make a special effort to reflect on the role and future of the Commission and to reach concrete and effective conclusions and decisions in this matter.

As you know, this process has actively started some two years ago. You will remember that, as agreed at its Twenty-fifth Session, EIFAC has carried out during the 2008-2010 intersessional period a series of activities to review its functioning with a view at identifying ways and means to improve its efficiency of the Commission.

The last step in this process has been the Workshop that was held in Mainz in January 2010. In summary, the Workshop has identified three main options, which you are invited to consider and discuss. Very briefly, these options are first, to continue as a FAO Article VI body but with improved structure and Rules of Procedure, second, converting EIFAC into a fisheries body under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, with an autonomous budget, and third abolish EIFAC.

There is a clear need for the FAO Secretariat to maintain a stance of full impartiality in this discussion. However, and without prejudging the discussion itself and the way it will evolve, I must respectfully state our general preference for the conversion of EIFAC into an fisheries body under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. The reasons for such preference are based not only on our general experience but also on the general policy of the Organization. We are convinced that this is the only way that a RFB such as this Commission can operate autonomously, with its own, steady and safe budget, as agreed by the members of the Commission themselves. Also, in our opinion only such an arrangement would allow for the eventual establishment of a full-time Secretariat that could serve the Commission and its Members on an exclusive and permanent basis

These are essentially the reasons why FAO is encouraging its Members to adopt such an option for their Regional Fisheries Bodies. This is why the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference in Resolution 4/2009 of November 2009 endorsed the ongoing follow-up work in the FAO Immediate Plan of Action, Action 3.17, on "Reviewing treaties, conventions, agreements and similar bodies and instruments established under articles VI, XIV and XV of the FAO Constitution with a view to their developing a greater degree of self-funding from their members".

A "greater degree of self funding", this is not the only aspect that you should consider, but it is a very important one. We would not act responsibly if we would not draw your attention upon the fact that FAO can not and will not provide more financial or human support to EIFAC than it currently does, under the general circumstances that I have described previously, and in view of the considerable constraints FAO is facing in terms of allocating its scarce human and financial resources between the different activities and actions it is mandated by its Members to undertake.

As I mentioned in the introduction of this statement, this Session is special. It focuses mainly on one item of the Agenda, i.e. on "Options for restructuring and improving the functioning of EIFAC". The Secretariat has prepared a "Decision Paper" to facilitate your consideration of the issue and as a reference and starting point for your discussions.

In this respect, we are greatly encouraged by the positive experience and precedent of the constructive exchange of views during the preparatory process which I have alluded to and in particular the Mainz Workshop.

I am quite sure, Mr Chairperson, that under your able guidance and direction, the delegations that have come to participate in the Session, will be able to reach a consensus decision on the way to move forward.

Needless to say, all FAO staff present remains at your full disposal to facilitate your work during the Session.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate our collective thanks and words of appreciation to our hosts, the Government and people of Croatia. Their generous hospitality is an essential contribution to our good work and to the positive results of this Session of the Commission.

I wish you a very fruitful Session and pleasant stay in this beautiful city of Zagreb.

Thank you for your attention.

**Address by Mr Phil Hickley
Chairperson of EIFAC**

Esteemed Government Representatives, Officers of FAO and EIFAC, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission being held here in Zagreb, Croatia.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to ask you, Mr Tonći Božanic, Secretary of State for Fisheries, to convey to your Government our gratitude for your kind invitation to hold the Twenty-sixth Session of EIFAC here in Croatia. My special thanks go to Mr Josip Suić, Chief of the Freshwater Fishing Department within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, for being the focal point for the general organization of this EIFAC Session. The amount of work that this entails should not be underestimated. I also extend particular thanks to Ms Judith Swan for her work in preparing the document on EIFAC reform that will be the basis for our discussion and decision over the next few days.

I would now like to say a few words about this important session of EIFAC. International consistency in the resolution of fisheries management issues is of increasing importance at the present time. Ecosystems and the services that humanity derives from them are being impacted by such pressures as land use practices, diffuse pollution, climate change and overfishing, to name but a few. Consolidation and cascade of best practice advice to the inland fisheries sector and its stakeholders is where EIFAC has a major role. It has been recognized, however, that if EIFAC is to fulfil this role, and is to function efficiently, there is a need to enhance its relevance to the management and advisory challenges of modern times. The history, structure and current activities of EIFAC will be explained during the agenda item on restructuring and improving the functioning of EIFAC so I will not repeat this information now.

The supposed strengths of EIFAC are many. For example, EIFAC is the only management orientated, knowledge based and officially recognised forum for European inland fisheries and aquaculture, is the only officially recognized forum representing consensus, and is the only official body capable of making pan-European recommendations. Also, its symposia and publications are well received, and its Working Parties provide answers to challenging problems. The weaknesses are also many. For example, EIFAC does not have a current corporate vision, it has no strategic plan, its Working Parties are entirely dependent upon the enthusiasm and volunteered time of the participants, and there is no formal budget for funding activities. The Secretariat, based in FAO headquarters in Rome, provides support but the time allowable for EIFAC duties has been eroded in recent years.

So, a serious and pro-active review of the functioning of EIFAC became essential. Accordingly, during the Twenty-fifth Session of EIFAC in Turkey, the need for EIFAC to carefully review possibilities for improvement was discussed with a sense of urgency and it was agreed that a project be initiated to resolve the issue. In order to proceed, financial contributions were required from member countries. As expected, this proved something of a challenge, but ultimately sufficient funds were made available, courtesy of France, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. As a first step, a workshop was held in The Hague in March 2009 during which participants proposed strategic orientation options, associated objectives and possible action plans. Then came the difficult task of converting the workshop ideas and expectations into a sound basis for decision. An options paper was produced and country delegates were summoned to a second workshop in Mainz in January 2010 to discuss the various options proposed. This Workshop was the essential precursor to this Twenty-sixth Session in Zagreb during which the member countries will have to decide upon keeping EIFAC as it is but improving its administrative structure, changing it to a body with autonomy and a budget, or abolishing it on the basis that although needed fifty three years ago this might not be the case now. For me, the optimum solution would be the continuation of EIFAC under autonomy with budget but clearly the outcome rests with the member countries.

I am grateful to you all for your attendance and would like to stress the importance of your participation. A successful outcome from this very significant EIFAC Session depends heavily on the enthusiasm, commitment and active involvement of those delegates who are present. It is critical that during the Session strong strategic decisions are taken on the objectives and mission of any future EIFAC and that recommendations are made on the best way forward for implementing these decisions. I would like to emphasise that EIFAC is not only at a crossroads but, also, is in a position whereby member countries have a unique opportunity to secure, if they wish to, the sustainable existence of a robust, workable and effective European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission.

I wish you all a pleasant and stay in Zagreb and hereby conclude my opening address.

Thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX E

Publications and dissemination avenues of Sub-Commission IV

Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Report of the Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture, Antalya, Turkey, 21–24 May 2008 was published in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report series as No 871, Suppl., and made available on the EIFAC website: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0358e/i0358e00.pdf>. Papers presented at the symposium have been edited and published in a special issue of Fisheries Management and Ecology (Volume 18(2)) [11 papers] or in EIFAC Occasional Paper No. 44 [33 papers].

Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries

FAO European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission. EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries. EIFAC Occasional Paper. No. 42. Rome, FAO. 2008. 45p. <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0363e/i0363e00.pdf>

Additional pertinent references

- a) A peer-reviewed paper describing the background of the Code has been published (Arlinghaus, R., S.J. Cooke, I.G. Cowx. 2010. Providing context to the global code of practice for recreational fisheries. Fisheries Management and Ecology 18).
- b) A third paper on the Code has been drafted in collaboration with North American colleagues (Arlinghaus, R., Beard, T.D., Cooke, S.J., Cowx, I.G.), specifically focusing on the value of the Code for North America. It will be submitted to the *International Journal Fisheries*.
- c) A small set of brief principles for laypeople that shall be serving the basis for a leaflet on the Code, produced by the Convener.
- d) Interest in the principles of the Code is high and is referred to in “European Parliament non-binding resolution on the Green Paper on reform of the common fisheries policy” <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2010-0039+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>.
- e) The Code is also serving as a framework for a Charter on Angling and Biodiversity in conjunction with the Bern Convention.
- f) The dissemination of the Code in the Central Asian region through an FAO Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries in Central Asia, held at Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, on 14–16 September 2009. The report will be published as Report of the Regional Workshop on Recreational Fisheries in Central Asia, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 14–16 September 2009. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report*. No. 926. FAO, Rome, 2010.

Fish Welfare

Arlinghaus, R., Cooke S.J., Schwab A., Cooke I.G. 2010. A pragmatic and a suffering-centred approach to fish welfare. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 75, 2448-2463.

APPENDIX F

Indicative Draft FAO Council Resolution to Revise the Statutes of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission as an FAO Article VI Body

THE COUNCIL

Recalling Resolution 2/26 of 1957 by which it established the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) under Article VI-I of the FAO Constitution and promulgated its Statutes,

Taking into consideration that the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission at its Twenty-Sixth Session (Zagreb, Croatia, May 2010) unanimously agreed on a revised text of its Statutes and invited the Council to approve it with a view to strengthening EIFAC to promote the effective long-term sustainable development, utilization, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, [align with objectives]

Decides to approve the revised Statutes of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission as follows:

1. General objective of the Commission

Without prejudice to the sovereignty of its Members, the Commission shall

- a. promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation, management, protection and restoration of European inland fisheries resources, including commercial and recreational fisheries, based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- b. identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues in a rapid and accountable manner as requested by Members;
- c. provide advice to managers/decision makers of inland fisheries and aquaculture as requested based on scientific, social, economic, legal and other factors;
- d. serve as a forward-looking international platform for the collation, validation dissemination and consideration of information on common challenges and opportunities to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to this end, inter alia, proactively identify:
 - relevant scientific, social, economic, legal, statistical and other information and make recommendations for decision makers taking into account the need to protect and preserve the aquatic ecosystems; and
 - common problems and solutions, and harmonized approaches as appropriate.

2. General principles

The Commission shall have due regard for and promote the application of the objectives and principles stated in the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, and in its related technical guidelines on inland fisheries and aquaculture development, and other relevant international instruments.

3. Area of competence

The area of competence of the Commission shall extend to the inland waters and areas within the territorial boundaries of its Members and transboundary water basins bordering those areas.

4. Focus of competence

The mandate of the Commission shall extend to all aquatic organisms and their related environment.

5. Members

Membership in the Commission shall be open to all European Members of the Organization.

6. Functions of the Commission

The functions of the Commission shall be to:

- a. promote and advise its Members and FAO on the sustainable utilization, conservation, management protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- b. identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues as requested by Members and FAO;
- c. promote, coordinate and, as appropriate, undertake the collation, validation, exchange and dissemination of scientific, biological, socio-economic, legal and, environmental data and information, including information on common challenges and solutions to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, as well as their analysis or study;
- d. initiate and/or carry out programmes or projects aimed at:
 - i increasing the efficiency and sustainable productivity of fisheries and aquaculture;
 - ii advising on the conservation and management of inland fisheries and aquaculture resources;
 - iii protecting resources from pollution and habitat degradation;
 - iv facilitating the restoration of degraded habitats and depleted resources;
- e. keep under review the state of the inland fisheries and aquaculture resources of its Members;
- f. encourage education and training including as appropriate by the promotion and the organization of seminars, workshops and other fora;
- g. promote liaison and cooperation among its Members;
- h. enhance communication and consultation with civil society organizations concerned with inland commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture;
- i. seek funds and other resources for possible projects outside the Regular FAO budget and establish, as appropriate, a trust fund for voluntary contributions; and
- j. carry out such other activities as may be necessary for the Commission to achieve its objectives and functions.

7. Institutions

1. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least once every two years. Intersessional decisions may be taken regarding specific projects through a written procedure.
2. The Commission shall establish the following Committees which shall have such membership, additional functions and Rules of Procedure that the Commission may define:
 - a. a Management Committee with authority to address organizational, financial, administrative and strategic issues, facilitate the approval of project proposals by the Commission and initiate and monitor the implementation of a long-term strategy; and
 - b. a Technical and Scientific Committee with authority to make, evaluate and recommend project proposals to the Management Committee, develop Terms of Reference for projects and monitor project implementation against the Terms of Reference,
3. The establishment of any subsidiary body shall be subject to the determination by the Director-General that the necessary funds are available in the relevant chapter of the budget of the Organization. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies the Commission must have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.
4. The Secretary of the Commission shall be appointed by the Director-General and shall be administratively responsible to him.

8. Reporting

The Commission shall submit to the Director-General reports on its activities and recommendations at such appropriate intervals as to enable the Director-General to take them into consideration when preparing the draft Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and other submissions to the Conference, Council or Committees of the Council. The Director-General shall bring to the attention of the Conference through the Council recommendations adopted by the Commission which have policy implications or which affect the programme or finances of the Organization. Copies of each report of the Commission shall be circulated to Members of the Commission and to other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and international organizations for their information, as soon as they become available. A direct line of access shall be established between the Commission and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

9. Observers

1. Any Member Nation or Associate Member of the Organization that is not a member of the Commission may, upon its request, be represented in an observer capacity at meetings of the Commission.
2. States which, while not Members of the Organization, are members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon their request, and with the approval of the Commission be represented in an observer capacity in accordance with the provisions adopted by the Conference of the Organization relating to the granting of observer status to Nations.
3. The Commission shall provide for the participation of intergovernmental and, on request, international non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission in its meetings as observers in accordance with its Rules of Procedure.

4. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization as well as the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the Conference and Council of the Organization.
5. Rules for the participation of observers shall be established in the Rules of Procedure.

10. Rules of Procedure

The Commission may adopt and amend its own Rules of Procedure which shall be in conformity with the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization and with the Statement of Principles Governing Commissions and Committees adopted by the Conference. The Rules of Procedure and amendments thereto shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General.

11. Cooperation with International Organizations

The Commission shall coordinate and cooperate closely with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest, and such Coordination and cooperation shall be carried out in accordance with relevant Rules and Procedures of the Organization.

12. Performance assessment and review

Three years after the approval of this Resolution an evaluation shall be made of the work undertaken against the objectives and functions of EIFAC, including appropriate recommendations.

APPENDIX G**Indicative Draft Rules of Procedure of
the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission
as an FAO Article VI Body****Rule I
Membership**

1. Membership in the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission is open to European Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Organization. Membership shall comprise such eligible Nations as have notified in writing the Director-General of their interest in becoming a member of the Commission.

2. Each Member Nation of the Commission shall, before the opening of each session, communicate to the Director-General the name of its representative who should, as far as possible, have responsibilities related to inland fisheries.

**Rule II
Officers and Operational Focal Points**

1. The Commission shall elect, at the end of each session, a Chairperson, a first Vice-Chairperson and a second Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives to the Commission who shall remain in office until the election of the new Chairperson and new Vice-Chairpersons at the next session. The outgoing Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum of [three] terms.

2. The Chairperson, or in his absence a Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at meetings of the Commission and exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate the work of the Commission. The Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

3. In the event that both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons are unable to serve, the Director-General or his or her representative shall act as Chairperson, until an *ad hoc* Chairperson is elected.

4. The Director-General shall appoint from among the staff of the Organization a Secretary of the Commission who shall be responsible to him or her.

5. The Commission may appoint one or more rapporteurs.

6. Each Member shall appoint an Operational Focal Point for purposes of communication of relevant matters relating to the Commission, who shall have the following functions and duties:

- a) ensure that his/her country is represented at each Session by a National Delegation and participate regularly in such Sessions;
- b) develop and maintain a national network of fisheries and aquaculture institutions, scientists and practitioners to facilitate communication and the flow of information to and from EIFAC and in this regard make full use of electronic means, including developing a national website as appropriate that provides information links and resources on EIFAC and on inland fisheries and aquaculture matters of interest to their country and may be used for information exchange;

- c) promote national and international collaboration among fisheries and aquaculture scientists, managers and administrators by providing the necessary contacts, either directly or with the help of the EIFAC Secretariat;
- d) make use of the advice and information provided by EIFAC, including reports and publications and inform national partners regularly of new EIFAC inland fisheries and aquaculture publications;
- e) periodically brief the relevant government bodies or agencies on the work and achievements of EIFAC;
- f) notify EIFAC of existing or emerging problems and issues in inland fisheries and aquaculture and inform EIFAC of relevant new publications and projects from their country;
- g) encourage participation by experts from Members in EIFAC projects and activities;
- h) brief the incoming Operational Focal Point on the ongoing activities of EIFAC and on the duties of a Operational Focal Point.

Rule III Management Committee

1. There shall be a Management Committee consisting of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons, the Chairperson of the Technical and Scientific Committee and five Members elected by the Commission for a term of two years. The Secretary shall be an *ex-officio* Member without vote. The Chairperson of the Management Committee shall be the Chairperson of the Commission.
2. The functions of the Management Committee shall be to:
 - a) [direct the] conduct of the business and affairs of the Commission between its sessions, including financial, administrative, [policy and strategic] issues [consistent with decisions of the Commission][except that issues of policy, unless previously decided by the Commission, shall be formulated by the Management Committee as a motion and referred to the Members];
 - b) propose a strategy and work plan with the assistance of the Secretariat for review and consideration by the Commission, and monitor its implementation;
 - c) review [and decide upon] recommendations of the Technical and Scientific Committee;
 - d) prepare estimates of expenses for the next succeeding two years for presentation to the Commission for submission to the Organization, in accordance with the Statutes of the Commission;
 - e) ensure that policies and decisions of the Commission are operationalized; and
 - f) [coordinate and monitor the work of the Technical and Scientific Committee and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission;]
3. The Management Committee shall meet at least once a year [between regular sessions], and the quorum for each meeting shall be [five] persons. In the unavoidable absence of up to three Members of the Executive Committee from a Committee session, the Chairperson shall have the power to co-opt such alternate as may be proposed by the government or institution of the relevant

Member or such other person that may be involved in relevant intersessional work, programmes or projects of EIFAC.

4. [When the Management Committee deals with special problems, the Chairperson of the Management Committee may, in consultation with the Vice-Chairpersons, invite not more than two additional Members of the Commission to attend in an advisory capacity the meetings of the Management Committee at which such problems are considered.]

5. The Management Committee shall periodically inform all Members of the Commission, through the Secretariat, of any action taken. Such action shall be [consistent with decisions of the Commission] [subject to confirmation at the next session of the Commission.]

Rule IV Sessions

1. The Commission shall hold regular sessions at least once every two years.

2. Extraordinary sessions of the Commission shall be held at such other times as the Commission may decide, or at the request of the Management Committee, provided that adequate funds are available for such extraordinary sessions in the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization, or from extra-budgetary funds.

3. The sessions of the Commission shall be convened by the Director-General, who shall decide on the place where they are to be held, in consultation with the Chairperson and the competent authorities of the host country, taking into account the views expressed by the Commission.

4. Notice of the date and place of each session of the Commission shall be communicated at least two months before the session to all the Members of the Commission, to such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization that are not Members of the Commission and to such non-Member Nations of the Organization and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.

5. Each Member of the Commission shall have one representative who may be accompanied by an alternate and advisers. An alternate or adviser shall not have the right to vote except when substituting for the representative.

6. Meetings of the Commission shall be held in [public] [private] unless the Commission decides otherwise.

7. A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule V Agenda

1. The Director-General shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, prepare a provisional agenda for each session of the Commission.

2. The first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda. No matter referred to the Commission by the Conference or Council of the Organization may be omitted from the agenda.

3. Any Member of the Commission may request the Director-General to include specific items in the provisional agenda.

4. The provisional agenda shall be circulated by the Director-General at least two months before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, to all Members of the Commission, to such Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization that are not Members of the Commission and to such non-Member Nations of the Organization and international organizations as may have been invited to attend the session.

5. Any Member of the Commission and the Director-General may, after the dispatch of the provisional agenda, but not later than one month before the date on which the opening of the session is scheduled to take place, propose the inclusion of specific items in the agenda. Such proposals shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons why the inclusion of the items in the agenda is considered desirable. These items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be dispatched by the Director-General to all Members of the Commission, other Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization attending the session and to such non-Member Nations and international organizations invited to the session, failing which the items shall be communicated to the Chairperson for submission to the Commission.

6. Documents to be submitted to the Commission at any session shall be furnished by the Director-General to the Members of the Commission, the other Members of the Organization attending the session and to the non-Member Nations and international organizations invited to the session, at the time the agenda is dispatched, or as soon as possible thereafter.

7. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Rule, the Commission may, at any session, decide by a two-thirds majority to amend the agenda by the deletion, addition or modification of any item.

Rule VI

Voting and Procedures

1. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Rule, each Member of the Commission shall have one vote.

2. Voting by Member Organizations of the Organization that are Members of the Commission shall be governed by the provisions of Article II.10 of the Constitution of the Organization.

3. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided in these Rules.

4. Upon the request of any Member of the Commission, voting shall be by roll-call, in which case the vote of each Member shall be recorded.

5. When the Commission so decides, voting shall be by secret ballot.

6. Voting in the Commission shall be carried out *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

Rule VII

Observers

1. Any Member or Associate Member of the Organization that is not a Member of the Commission may, upon request communicated to the Director-General, attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies or *ad hoc* meetings, in an observer capacity. Such Members of the Organization or Associate Members may submit memoranda and participate without vote in the discussions.

2. States which, while not Members of the Organization, are Members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon their request and with the approval of the Commission, attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies, and *ad*

hoc meetings in an observer capacity. The status of States invited to such sessions or meetings shall be governed by the relevant provisions adopted by the Conference of the Organization.

3. Intergovernmental organizations having an interest in the work of the Commission shall be invited to attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings, in an observer capacity.

4. International non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission shall, upon request communicated to the Director-General, be invited to attend sessions of the Commission, its subsidiary bodies or ad hoc meetings, in an observer capacity.

5. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization as well as by the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the Conference and Council of the Organization. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General.

Rule VIII

Records and Reports

1. At each session, the Commission shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including when requested a statement of minority views. Such other records for its own use as the Commission may on occasion decide, shall also be maintained.

2. The conclusions and recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Director-General at the close of each session, who shall circulate them to Members of the Commission and to nations and international organizations that were represented at the session and, upon request, to other Member Nations of the Organization for their information.

3. Recommendations having policy, program or financial implications for the Organization shall be brought by the Director-General to the attention of the Conference through the Council.

4. The Director-General may request Members of the Commission to supply information in order to keep the Commission informed on action taken on the basis of its recommendations.

Rule IX

Technical and Scientific Committee

1. There shall be a Technical and Scientific Committee consisting of [five] experts in European inland fisheries and aquaculture.

2. Membership of the Technical and Scientific Committee shall be open to all Members of the Commission, and each Member shall designate a representative. The Secretary shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote. The Chairperson shall be elected by the Commission for a renewable term of [two] years, but not exceeding [six] consecutive years.

3. The functions of the Technical and Scientific Committee shall be to:

- a) make, review, evaluate and as appropriate recommend to the Management Committee proposals for programmes or projects to be carried out by the Commission in accordance with these Rules and Criteria;
- b) develop Terms of Reference for programmes/projects and monitor project implementation against the Terms of Reference;

- c) provide technical oversight, monitoring and evaluation of projects and related programme of work activities;
 - d) [formulate and draft technical and scientific advice for approval by the Management Committee];
 - e) function as an editorial and publications committee.
4. Proposals for programmes or projects to be implemented wholly or partly by the Commission may be developed and submitted by the Technical and Scientific Committee, [a Member through its Operational Focal Point or other official channel] [donor or partner organization] [independent partner institution] to the Secretariat.
5. Each project proposal shall specify the following:
- a) purpose of the proposal;
 - b) expected outcome;
 - c) benefits of outcome;
 - d) funding source(s) and budget;
 - e) Terms of Reference of the proposal;
 - f) time frame and benchmarks;
 - g) methodology;
 - h) project manager and Terms of Reference as appropriate, including authority to select experts and others involved in project implementation;
 - i) administrative arrangements;
 - j) partners; and
 - k) such other requirements that may be recommended by the Technical and Scientific Committee and agreed by the Commission.
6. The Secretariat shall review each proposal submitted by [a Member through its Operational Focal Point or other official channel] [donor or partner organization] [independent institution] to ensure it fulfils the requirements in these Rules or as may be otherwise agreed by the Technical and Scientific Committee in accordance with these Rules, and where such requirements:
- a) are not fulfilled shall return the proposal with an explanation and request the originator to re-submit as appropriate;
 - b) are fulfilled shall forward the proposal for the consideration of the Technical and Scientific Committee;
7. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall review and evaluate each project proposal, taking into account the following criteria:
- a) the project proposal is consistent with the objectives and functions of the Commission and with the terms of its Agreement;
 - b) the project outcomes shall have relevance to one or more Members of the Commission;
 - c) to the extent possible, the project proposal is forward-looking, proactive and results-oriented;
 - d) the total financial and other support for the project is identified and shall not require any contributions or additional resources from EIFAC.

8. The Technical and Scientific Committee may recommend a project to the Management Committee or, where a project proposal does not meet the criteria and other requirements of these Rules, reject the project proposal or request further information or modifications.

9. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall review each EIFAC Working Party in existence at the time these Rules are adopted, and recommend to the Management Committee the continuation as projects under the Agreement of those that are active and meet the requirements of these Rules.

10. Where it has been agreed to recommend a project proposal or continuation of an EIFAC Working Party as a project under this Agreement pursuant to Rule 8 or 9 above, the Technical and Scientific Committee shall identify the terms of reference of the project for recommendation to the Management Committee, including the following:

- a) objective and expected outcome;
- b) programme/project management;
- c) budget;
- d) administrative requirements;
- e) reporting to the Committee at regular intervals, including on the implementation of benchmarks and on completion of the programme/project; and
- f) follow up as appropriate.

11. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall require each project manager to report through the Secretariat on the implementation of the approved Terms of Reference no less than twice a year, and shall monitor the implementation of approved programmes/projects no less frequently based on such reports.

12. The Technical and Scientific Committee may, where it considers that the Terms of Reference and other conditions of the programme/project are not being fulfilled, recommend to the [Management Committee] the imposition of conditions for reform on the programme/project, or suspension or termination.

13. The Technical and Scientific Committee shall meet at least [once] each year between regular sessions, but shall hold meetings more frequently where the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the Secretary deem it necessary to effectively carry out the mandate and functions of the Committee.

Rule X

Subsidiary Bodies

1. The Commission may, on an *ad hoc* basis, establish such other subsidiary bodies at it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives.

2. Membership in such other subsidiary bodies may be made up of all or selected Members of the Commission or of individuals appointed in their personal capacity.

3. The Commission may recommend to the Director-General the convening of *ad hoc* meetings, either of representatives of Members of the Commission or of experts serving in an individual capacity, in order to study problems that because of their specialized nature could not fruitfully be discussed during the normal Sessions of the Commission.

4. Experts who are to serve in their personal capacity as Members of any subsidiary body or who are to be invited to attend *ad hoc* meetings shall be chosen by the Commission unless the Commission decides otherwise, and shall be appointed by the Director-General in accordance with established procedures.

5. The Terms of Reference of the subsidiary bodies and the questions to be discussed by *ad hoc* meetings shall be determined by the Commission.

6. The establishment of subsidiary bodies and the convening of *ad hoc* meetings shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization, or to the availability of extra-budgetary funds. The determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General.

7. Before taking any decision involving expenditures in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies or the convening of an *ad hoc* meeting, the Commission shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

8. Each subsidiary body and *ad hoc* meeting shall elect its own officers.

9. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to its subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* meetings.

Rule XI Trust Fund

All voluntary contributions, donations and other forms of assistance, in particular those referred to in Article 6 (i) of the Statutes, shall be placed in a Trust Fund administered by the Director-General in conformity with the Financial Regulation of FAO.

Rule XII Expenses

1. Expenses incurred by representatives of Members of the Commission, their alternates and advisers, when attending Sessions of the Commission, Management Committee, Technical and Scientific Committee, subsidiary bodies or *ad hoc* meetings as well as the expenses incurred by observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations.

2. Expenses of experts invited by the Director-General to attend sessions or meetings in their individual capacity shall be borne by the Organization.

3. Any financial operations relating to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

Rule XIII Language

English shall be the official language of the Commission.

Rule XIV Amendment and Suspension of Rules

1. Amendment of, or additions to these Rules may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Commission provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the amendment or addition has been given. Amendments or additions to these Rules shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council of the Organization, as appropriate.

2. Any of the above Rules of the Commission, other than Rules I-1; II-4; IV-1, 2, 3, 5 and 7; V-2; VI- 1, 2 and 3; VII, VIII-3 and 4; IX-5 and 6; X; and XII-1, may be suspended by the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. Such notice may be waived if no Member of the Commission objects.

APPENDIX H**Statement by Mr Gérard Castelnaud
Chairperson of the Technical and Scientific Committee**

To begin with, I would like to make it clear that the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC) must be able to work independently, so as to deliver results to the Management Committee.

The TSC plays a crucial role in turning EIFAC's mission into reality and is key to stimulating inventiveness, imagination and hence the creation of new tools, especially projects.

When I was put forward as Chairperson of the TSC, I stated that there were two conditions which concerned:

- the quantity of work linked to this post and the financial implications;
- the need for agreement by the ministries and my institute.

A third essential precondition also exists, namely real support and real constructive participation on the part of member countries.

It has been acknowledged that the member countries must be more involved at a technical and financial level while giving guidance to EIFAC, defining objectives and projects and reorganizing those working groups that are to be converted into projects.

The TSC therefore expects, within a fairly short period of time, say by October 2010 - after the summer holidays - at the latest, proposals from member countries:

- on the projects that are of direct interest to them, in line with the priority questions that they proposed to EIFAC before the session;
- concerning the scientific expert or experts qualified to be involved in these projects, who can contribute to the effective work of the TSC;
- concerning the funding to support these projects.

All this information is required so that the work programme in the form of projects can be drawn up, and a timetable established.

The Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 17 to 20 May 2010. The Session reviewed EIFAC's activities since 2008 in the fields of fishery biology and management, aquaculture, protection of the aquatic environment and social and economic issues. The Session deliberated on the options for the restructuring and improving of the functioning of the Commission and decided that EIFAC should continue as a fishery body under Article VI of the FAO Constitution but with an improved structure and modernized Rules of Procedure, subject to endorsement of these decisions by the FAO Council and the Director-General of FAO. All Working Parties and Sub-Commissions were abolished and it was decided to adopt a project approach for future work in relevant fields. The Twenty-seventh Session will be held in 2012.

ISBN 978-92-5-106709-3 ISSN 2070-6987



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K9545E/1/01.11