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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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## Regional Conference for Europe

### TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

**Bucharest, Romania, 2 - 4 April 2014**

### Agenda Item 12

### Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-2015 of the Regional Conference for Europe

#### Executive Summary

In conformity with the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) regarding improvement of governing bodies, the Regional Conferences prepare a Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) covering a period of at least four years. A MYPOW for the ERC was prepared for the 28th Session of the ERC 2012. The members adopted the MYPOW, but requested to update the MYPOW with regards to the amended Rules of Procedures for the FAO Regional Conference.

The version presented below is an amended version of the MYPOW 2012-2015.

#### Guidance sought:

The ERC may wish to endorse the revised MYPOW 2012 - 2015

## I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR THE ERC

1. The objectives reflect the enhanced role of Regional Conferences in the governance process of FAO. In particular, the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the Region regarding matters pertaining to the Organization's mandate, and provides advice and action-oriented recommendations to the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization.

2. In this context, the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, also contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. It exercises oversight of the functions and

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activities of FAO in the region, in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization.<sup>1</sup> It operates efficiently and effectively, collaborating where appropriate with relevant partner organizations.

3. The European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) reviews technical aspects and issues of importance to European agriculture and rural development. The ECA is a preparatory body of the ERC, and the results of discussions and recommendations stemming from the ECA should be used as a basis for the preparation of the topics of the ERC for policy discussion and adoption as well as the preparation of the priorities for the Region. The Executive Committee of the ECA shall act on behalf of the Commission between sessions of the ECA, of which it is the executive body. It shall submit to the ECA proposals concerning the general orientation of the Commission's activities and its programme of work.

## II. RESULTS

### A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

4. Result: The ERC recommendations and guidance on, priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets of regional interest, as well as on the regional situation and issues pertaining to food security, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development, provide a sound basis for decision-making by the FAO Council and the FAO Conference.

5. Indicators and targets:

- Clear, specific and consensual recommendations made in a timely manner by the ERC to the FAO Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets of interest to the Region.
- ERC recommendations relating to the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the FAO Council and FAO Conference reports.
- ERC guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the FAO Council and FAO Conference, as well as in other relevant governing bodies or technical commissions at regional level.

6. Outputs: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the FAO Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budget for the Region.

7. Activities:

- Review implementation of the PWB in the Region.
- Review decisions and recommendations from relevant technical commissions and meetings in the Region.
- Review the performance of the Organization in the Region, including effectiveness and efficiency of the structure (network of FAO offices) in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations.
- Advise on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the Region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.

8. Working methods:

- Collaboration with Members in the Region through the Chairperson of the ERC and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture.
- Liaison with relevant statutory bodies and other institutions in the Region.
- Informal consultations among Members as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersession period.

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<sup>1</sup> Basic Text of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, Volume I and II, 2013 Edition, Rule XXXV - Regional Conferences - p. 63f. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/K8024E.pdf>

## **B. Monitoring of, and advice on, policy and regulatory matters**

9. Result: ERC recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory matters. The ECA provides advice to the ERC on regional aspects of global policy and regulatory matters.

10. Indicators and targets:

- Clear and timely recommendations included in the ERC and the ECA report.
- ERC recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

11. Output: Clear policy recommendations for the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

12. Activities:

- Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the European Region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting on the mandate of FAO.
- Consider the recommendations from FAO statutory bodies and meetings of relevance to the European Region.
- Periodically address new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the European Region.
- Consider the desirability of developing international agreements for the Region.
- Facilitate and support subregional consultation processes, including recommendations to convene subregional Ministerial meetings as necessary.

13. Working methods:

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the European Region.
- Liaison with relevant FAO statutory bodies and other institutions in the European Region.
- Informal consultations with Members as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersession period.
- Collaboration with Members in the Region through the Chairperson of the ERC and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture.
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and FAO Management.

## **C. Work planning and working methods**

14. Result: The ERC operates effectively and efficiently, in a result-oriented, inclusive way.

15. Indicators and targets:

- Regional Conference agendas are focused.
- Regional Conference reports are concise, consisting mainly of specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner.
- Regional Conference documents adhere to new corporate presentation standards and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences.
- Eighty percent of countries participate at senior level in the Regional Conference.

16. Outputs:

- Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Regional Conference adopted in 2014.
- Progress report on the Regional Conference provided at the last Council session of the biennium.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See document CL 148/9, paragraphs 24 - 27: <http://www.fao.org/bodies/council/cl148/en/>

- Methods of work of the Regional Conference kept under review and improvements sought regularly.

17. Activities:

- Consult with Members on agenda and format of the Regional Conference through the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture and the European Regional Group.
- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available.
- Review the Rules of Procedure for the Conference.
- Preparation of the MYPOW, with performance indicators and progress reports to the FAO Council and FAO Conference on the MYPOW.
- Regular review of methods of work, including performance measures.
- Review of the status of implementation of the Regional Conference recommendations.

18. Working methods:

- Consult with Members, through the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture and the European Regional Group
- Intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and through the European Commission on Agriculture and its Executive Committee for continuity between biennial meetings with support from the Secretariat
- Structured and focused deliberations during sessions.
- Efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
- Secretariat support for the implementation of, and follow up to, the MYPOW.
- Informal meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.