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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session

Dresden, Germany, 11 – 13 September 2019

Report from the Management Committee (MC) on Actions Taken since the 29th Session of EIFAAC

Executive Summary

This document provides information on the actions and decisions that the Management Committee of EIFAAC has taken since the 29th Session of EIFAAC in Stare Jabłonki, Poland in September 2017.

1. The overarching mission of EIFAAC is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources and to support sustainable economic, social and recreational activities towards these goals. The Commission goals are to be achieved through:

- providing advice, information and coordination;
- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- through the delivery of effective research.

2. The Commission currently operates under a new project-oriented structure that was approved by the 27th Session, which is a more efficient structure for delivery of EIFAAC goals. The current goals of EIFAAC were revised by the 29th Session in Stare Jabłonki, Poland in September 2017 (see information item EIFAAC/XXX/INF/2019/2):

- As a leading Pan-European Organization, EIFAAC provides policy and management advice in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO (strategic objectives, regional initiatives, SDGs) and other relevant international instruments.

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Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*

- EIFAAC delivers technical and managerial advice, information and coordination on matters related to Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to its members and serves as an international network of organizations, stakeholders, communities and intergovernmental organizations.
- EIFAAC via its structures, processes and procedures implements efficient delivery of its organizations and Members' objectives in accordance with FAO principles and best international practices.

3. The organizational restructuring towards project oriented results has proven to be well functioning which was aimed to strengthen EIFAAC's operational efficiency. The appointment of different secretaries in recent years, however resulted in some distraction to the work of EIFAAC, especially publication of research project results. The situation has settled down and there is a good co-operation with the EIFAAC Committees and the Secretariat in Budapest on FAO projects as well as EIFAAC publications in the pipeline.

4. One of the main challenges facing the Management Committee (MC) is the weak participation by EIFAAC Members in the Sessions. For example, the last two Sessions (28th in Lillehammer, Norway and 29th in Stare Jablonki, Poland) did not reach the quorum necessary to validate elections and the Final Report of the Session. This situation has been a point of discussion for the MC Members on ways to raise interest of member states in the work of EIFAAC, especially as a source of evidence-based policymaking related to European inland waterbodies and freshwater aquaculture. This problem is exacerbated by the lack of nominated Operational Focal Points (OFPs) for EIFAAC in many member countries, especially when an OFP retires. This raises questions on the present interest for active participation of member countries in the goals and work of EIFAAC, and for the sector as a whole.

5. The work of Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC) has been effective and fruitful as is seen in the productive outputs of the projects. However, the difficulties in managing the financial support for the projects are something still to be resolved. As an Article VI statutory body of FAO, there are no member fees and FAO allocation of regular programme funds is limited, primarily for EIFAAC Sessions. One possible way to resolve this problem could be to establish a specific multidonor trust fund, which would allow funding specific projects as well as increasing co-operation with other FAO regional technical commissions situated under the Article XIV, which have their own funding arrangements, namely, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) and European Commission for Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD).

6. To address some of the above issues, the 29th Session of EIFAAC called on the MC to develop a draft Communication Strategy. This is part of meeting document EIFAAC/XXX/2019/5 "Draft Strategy 2020-2024 and Communication Strategy".

7. The Chair of the Management Committee (MC) would like to report on the progress of the Committee during the intersessional period 2017-2019:

- Monthly MC meetings held via Skype with relevant meeting minutes documented and circulated among the MC members;
- Two physical MC meetings held in Budapest, Hungary in April 2018 and May 2019;

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- Chair of EIFAAC / MC participated in the FAO Informal Consultation session for Europe and Central Asia in May 2019 and contributed to the agenda item related to the regional commissions;¹
 - Chair of EIFAAC / MC participated in the 31st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Voronezh, Russia, May 2018;
 - MC members and Secretariat with German Government organized the EIFAAC International Symposium on “Food Safety and Conservation in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture”, 9-11 September 2019, Dresden, Germany;
 - MC members and Secretariat with German Government organized the 30th EIFAAC Session, 11-13 September 2019, Dresden, Germany.

¹ For more information on the Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia, 16–17 May 2019, Budapest, Hungary: IC agenda (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/events2019/IC2019/Agenda_en_rev3n1.pdf); IC minutes (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/events2019/IC2019/Minutes_en.pdf)