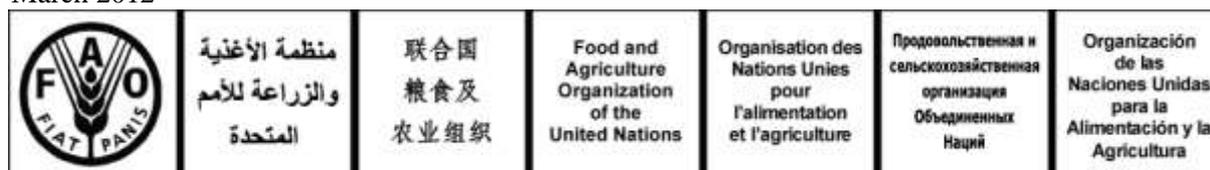


March 2012

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

Thirty-seventh Session

Baku, Azerbaijan, 17 and 18 April 2012

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Opening of the Session

1. **Adoption of the Agenda: for decision (ECA 37/12/1)**
2. **Appointment of Rapporteur: for decision**
3. **Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-2011, Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-2013 and Areas of Priority Action for the Region for the Biennium 2014-15, taking into account the discussions and recommendations from the Regional Technical Commissions: for discussion as preparation for the 28th ERC (ECA 37/12/2, ECA/37/12/5 and ERC/12/INF/15)**

This agenda item will include a report on the results of FAO activities in the Region in 2010-2011. There will be particular emphasis on the results of the programme and how the lessons learnt from the 2010-2011 biennium have been considered in preparing for the implementation of the PWB for 2012-2013. The document will concentrate on the regional aspects in terms of the salient follow-up action taken in the European Region, including recommendations from the Regional Technical Commissions.

Member nations should discuss the main features of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the European Region 2012-2013. The objective of the debate is to prepare recommendations for the ERC in relation to the priorities of the Region and its respective sub-regions and concentrate on the results and impacts that the member countries expect to achieve in the region with the FAO assistance. The document will take into consideration the consultation process with member countries regarding the priorities at various levels in the region prior to the ERC. Furthermore, the member countries should give guidance on the main areas of priority action in the region for the coming biennium (2014-2015).

Recommendations in the form of a decision box on the discussions will be prepared in order to present these recommendations including priorities for the European region to the ERC during the 28th Session of the ERC.

4. **Land reform and farm performance in Europe: a 20 year perspective: for discussion and decision (ECA 37/12/3)**

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In nearly all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) the rural sector has undergone a shift from predominantly collective to more individualized agriculture. Between 1990 and 2000, considerably more land transferred ownership in these countries than in other successful land reforms, including those in Mexico, Brazil, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. The basis of this shift from collective to individual agriculture lies in two interrelated aspects of agricultural policy reform: land reform, which concerns issues of land use rights and land ownership or title; and farm reform, which deals with issues of restructuring farms into individual land holdings.

More than 20 years have now passed since the beginning of post-socialist land and farm reform in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States. While starting from a common heritage and aspiring to a common goal of a marked improvement in their economies, different countries adopted different strategies for land reform in the 1990s and, as a result, achieved very different outcomes. This paper will examine the different transition paths in the region since the early 1990s and attempt to draw lessons from the reforms in the region; namely, how different approaches to reforming land tenure and farm governance have affected sector performance.

The performance of the sector will be analyzed from a number of perspectives. One of the most important “success indicators” targeted by governments in the region is agricultural growth. This indicator shows clear patterns by sub-region, which are connected with the transition strategies of countries in the sub-region in question. Another indicator of success is productivity; both in terms of land and labour, as well as total factor productivity, a measure of the efficiency with which the entire basket of inputs is utilized by producers. Yet another indicator of a healthy and viable farm sector is the degree to which farm sizes vary compared with market farm sectors of North America and Europe.

Land and farm reform in the region can provide lessons for member countries. Firstly, in those countries in which agricultural growth has differed according to the type of farm, the growing segment of the sector should be technically supported so as to ensure continued growth. Secondly, member countries would also do well to support those farm types that exhibit higher productivity. Finally, countries in the region need to pay due attention to the structure of farming in developed market economies, as this structure represents the outcome of competitive market pressures over a number of years.

During the discussion of this paper member countries from the region will be expected to make their own recommendations regarding best practices in land reform based on their own experiences.

A decision box containing the recommendations from the discussion will be prepared for adoption at the ERC 28th Session.

5. **Women in Agriculture - Closing the Gender Gap for Development in Europe. The Activities of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development: *for discussion and decision* (ECA 37/12/4)**

The importance of gender equality has been globally recognized. In 1995, the principle of gender equality and women’s empowerment was stated in the UN Beijing Platform: “Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace”. Gender equality is also a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in its own right and it is directly related to the MDG targets on reducing extreme poverty and hunger. The generation, dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated data is acknowledged as the first necessary step towards equitable and effective policies and programmes. The need for sex-disaggregated data is striking in the agricultural and rural sector in terms of assessing “the particular problem faced by rural women and the significant roles that rural women play in the economic survival of their families” (CEDAW Convention, 1979).

Drawing on the FAO State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11 publication “Women in Agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development”, this paper attempts to present data-based evidence on the gender gap¹ in terms of the access that female and male agricultural holders in Europe have a range of assets (e.g. land, livestock, employment, education, extension services, machinery).

In particular, the paper will provide a compilation of available sex-disaggregated data on the agricultural and rural sector from a number of countries in our region, as well as a first-level analysis of the socio-economic status of rural women/men for three selected countries; namely, Albania, Bulgaria and Tajikistan. The underlying research is being carried out by the WPW Secretariat (FAO REU) with the support of the WPW Board and it is in line with the recommendations of the Working Party on Women (ECA:14thWPW/09/3).

Based on evidence provided, the paper calls for gender issues in agricultural and rural development in Europe to be addressed and advocates the importance of sex-disaggregated data on the agricultural and rural sector for a more informed and gender-sensitive agricultural policy making process. The paper is expected to stimulate a discussion among the members of the ECA on country-specific situations and policies regarding gender in the rural and agricultural sector (also in relation to past WPW recommendations). In addition, member countries will be encouraged to express their renewed commitment to the WPW activities. This paper is intended to be a preliminary step towards building a possible regional business case for addressing gender issues in agricultural development and food security in the European Region. However, further research is needed to assess the linkages between the gender gap and agricultural productivity in our region. In fact, studies in developing countries show a close link between the underperformance of the agriculture sector and women’s and men’s unequal access to resources and opportunities.

Given the lack of similar analytical studies in the European countries, this paper could be used as a basis for such in-depth research in the future.

In light of the FAO reform, results oriented approach recommendations are expected to be provided by the FAO secretariat on the basis of the discussions and its experience.

6. **Election of members of the Executive Committee:** *for decision*
7. **Other Business**
8. **Date and Place of the Thirty-eighth Session:** *for decision*
9. **Summary of conclusions presented by the Rapporteur** ²

Closing of the Session

¹ Unequal access to assets, resources, opportunities.

² In line with para. 32 of the Report of the 33rd Session and the Rules of Procedure, the drafting of the final report is entrusted to the Secretariat and the Rapporteur. The Rapporteur will make an oral presentation of the outcome of the session to the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Europe and main conclusions and recommendations in the form of a decision box on items 3, 4 and 5 will be submitted to the Regional Conference as LIM documents for endorsement.