



European Commission on Agriculture

35/1 Meeting of the Executive Committee

24 June 2014

Meeting Room B – 343

14- 17 hours

Minutes

Present

Chairperson: Ms Natalie Feistritzer (Austria)

Vice-Chairperson: Ms Alina Popescu (Romania)

Members: Mr Vasily Lawrovskiy (Russian Federation – via teleconference)
Mr Damien Kelly (Ireland)
Ms Marieta Okenkova (Slovakia)
Mr Hilmi Erin Dedeoglu (Turkey)
Mr Mirosław Drygas (Poland – Absent)
Mr Siim Tidemann (Estonia – Absent)

REU Secretariat: Mr Raimund Jehle, Secretary of the ECA (REU)
Mr Tony Alonzi, Deputy Regional Representative (REU) – by video
Ms Katalin Ludvig, Consultant (REU) – by video
Ms Beata Somogyi, Programme Assistant, REU (by video)

Agenda:

- 1. Briefing of the New Members of the Executive Committee on the tasks/Mandate/Modalities and the Function of the Executive Committee of the ECA (35/1-1 - Rules of Procedure)*
- 2. Time schedule of the ECA Executive Committee Meetings until next ECA in 2015 in Hungary (35/1-2)*
- 3. Proposal for the dates of the 39th Session of the ECA 2015 in Budapest, Hungary (35/1-3)*

4. *Follow-up to the recommendations stemming from the 38th ECA Session and the 29th ERC in Bucharest with particular focus on the 39th ECA Session in Budapest Hungary (ECA/38/14/REPORT – Final Report of the 38th ECA and ERC/14/REP – Final Report of the 29th ERC)*
5. *Introduction of Regional Initiative I: Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms for improved Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction (35/1-4)*
6. *Any other business*

<p>The Chairperson welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the first meeting after the 38th Session of the ECA and also congratulated the newly elected members on their appointments. As there were no objections the participants endorsed the draft agenda.</p>
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<p><u>Agenda item 1: Briefing of the New Members of the Executive Committee on the tasks/Mandate/Modalities and the Function of the Executive Committee of the ECA</u></p>

<p>The Secretariat congratulated Ms Natalie Feistritzer for her election as Chair of the ECA and also the new members of the ECA. As a briefing for the newly elected members, the secretary outlined major responsibilities on the basis of the rules of procedure.</p>
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<p>During the discussions the following issues were raised by the members:</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is a need to invite an observer to any of the meetings of the Ex Com, the members should get in touch with the Chair of the Ex Com;• The abolition of the WPW resulting in a need to change the existing rules of procedure of the ECA. The secretariat indicated that there was no implication as the RoP do not specifically refer to the WPW but only to sub-committees;• Further details regarding the history of establishing the ECA in the Region;• Clarification of whether ECA membership only covers the European Region and whether the ECA has the same membership as the European Regional Group. The secretariat explained that the membership of the ECA and the ERC is the same, but membership in the ERG was different as in the ERG only countries were members, which are present in Rome. |
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<p>Action: The Secretariat is to send further information on the history of the ECA</p>
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Agenda item 2: Time schedule of the ECA Executive Committee Meetings until next ECA in 2015 in Hungary

The Secretariat introduced the tentative work programme of the Executive Committee and the schedule of meetings during the inter-session period based on the Ex Com document 35/1-2.

The Ex Com endorsed the workplan and the time schedule in general and raised the following points during the discussion:

- The next Ex Com meeting might not be feasible in November and was thus suggested for early December 2014;
- There should be a maximum of one Informal Consultation and it was agreed to hold this in the first quarter 2015. The exact timing and content should be decided by the end of 2014 and at the end of 2015 it could be reviewed whether there was a need for a second Information Consultation;
- Regarding the venue of the Informal Consultation, the Secretariat informed that while almost all Consultations were held in Budapest, Hungary, the location of the second consultation in 2013 was held in Moldova, as the host country of the 29th ERC was interested in sponsoring an Informal Consultation in Moldova.

Action: Secretariat to distribute the final schedule and work programme

Agenda item 3: Proposal for the dates of the 39th Session of the ECA 2015 in Budapest, Hungary

The Secretariat introduced the background document and informed that the 39th ECA session should be held at least six months before the ERC (based on the background document 35/1-3). September 2015 was agreed by all during the meeting but it was emphasized that it should be at the end of the month rather than at the beginning.

Action: Secretariat to discuss possible dates with the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary and share them with the members of the Executive Committee meeting.

Agenda item 4: Follow-up to the recommendations stemming from the 38th ECA Session and the 29th ERC in Bucharest with particular focus on the 39th ECA Session in Budapest Hungary

The Secretariat recalled some of the recommendations stemming from both the ECA and ERC sessions held in 2014. Regarding the ECA session the following recommendations were highlighted by the secretariat:

- Preparation of a costs proposal for future ECA sessions to be prepared for the next ECA session (par. 19.c) The question of whether the Executive Committee would wish to participate in the preparation of this proposal from the beginning, or if the Secretariat should prepare a proposal first, was raised?

- Abolishing the WPW and replacement of the WPW on the gender network (17.b and 17.c). The members indicated that they would like to be kept informed of the next steps and actions and thus recommended having a discussion on this item during the next Ex Com meeting.

Regarding the ERC session the following recommendations were highlighted by the secretariat:

- The ERC has endorsed the Regional Initiatives (RI). While RI 1 will be presented under the upcoming agenda item during the meeting, the Secretariat proposes to have a presentation on RI 2 during the second Executive Committee meeting.
- The discussion on the MYPOW of the Regional Conference was already subject of the 2012 ERC, during which the Secretariat was asked to refine the MYPOW and present it during the 2014 ERC. The same recommendation came out of the 2014 ERC.
- Issues of Food Security, development of family farms and Food Loss and Waste, should be taken into consideration.

The members agreed that all recommendations and issues presented are of importance and should be considered accordingly.

Action:

- **REU to prepare the draft cost proposal for the sessions of the ECA**
- **REU should present to the next Ex Com the steps regarding the gender network**
- **The RI 2 should be presented at the next Ex Com meeting**

Agenda item 5: Introduction of Regional Initiative I: Empowering Smallholders and Family Farmers for improved Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction

On behalf of the RI Delivery manager, Ms Katalin Ludvig, REU, introduced RI1 in a short presentation. During the discussion the following items were raised:

- How was the initiative linked to the CPFs? The Secretariat informed that REU is working with country offices where CPFs are signed and in place. All focus countries have CPFs.
- What efforts were made to involve not state actors e.g. CSOs and NGOs in the implementation of the RI? The Secretariat informed that the REU Partnership officer would facilitate partnership with private Sector and NGOs, and efforts were made to link this to the RI. REU was also identifying ways to involve academic partners, academia experts, to see how they could specifically contribute to FAO activities. There was also a new partnership agreement recently signed with Turkey, during which important focus would be to tap into expertise available inside the country to participate.
- What kind of resources are mobilized, who are the potential partners and what is the time-frame for implementation? The Secretariat informed that extrabudgetary resource mobilized so far are originating from the EU, Austria, but efforts are also made to mobilize resources from the Russian Federation and eventually the Eurasian Economic

Union.

- The members of the Ex Com also suggested that the title of the RI could include also family farmers in addition to smallholders, and data on the number of family farmers and smallholders (segregated if available) could be provided by REU, to monitor and see the impacts after implementation. The Secretariat took note of the change in the title and informed that it will try to put data together on the fragmentation of farming in the focus countries.

Action:

REU to keep the Ex Com members informed regarding the progress of the Regional Initiative.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

No specific issues were raised. The Chair asked whether there were any additional comments or remark regarding the field mission report prepared by two Ex Com members to Georgia in September 2013.

Members had no further comments on this.

The members agreed that they will decide on the date of the next Executive Committee meeting via email consultation.

Action:

No action needed.

Closing of the Session:

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the good preparation of background documents and their support throughout the meeting.