



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## **European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)**

### **35/4 Meeting of the Executive Committee**

**2 July 2015**

**Espace Gabon**

**14.00 – 17.00 hours**

### **Agenda Item 2**

### **Proposal**

## **for the Agenda of the 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe, 2016**

1. The 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) will be held from 2-6 May 2016 in Antalya, Turkey. The purpose of this paper is to present a draft agenda for the ERC based on the outcome of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session, suggestions by FAO technical staff and Secretariat as well as the feedback received from the Members at the Informal Consultation held in Budapest on 18-19 May 2015.

2. The agenda for Regional Conferences consists of the following four standard sections agreed for Regional Conferences: (i) Introductory items; (ii) Regional and global policy and regulatory issues; (iii) Programme and budget matters; and (iv) Other matters, including Information notes.

3. In line with past practice, standing items related to Fisheries and Forestry Commissions are presented as Information Notes. The Council at its 151<sup>st</sup> session in March 2015 in reviewing the document “Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms (C2015/26 Rev.1) endorsed the suggestion *“that the priorities identified by the regional technical commissions on forests and fisheries could be included as an integral part of the Regional Conference reports to Council as regard priorities for the work of the Organization in each region”* noting however, caution needed to be exercised to avoid duplication of work, as the priorities of the regional technical commissions are already reflected in the reports of the Technical Committees. This issue could eventually be proposed for ERC discussion and decision under the Governance item.

4. Annex 1 to this paper presents the proposed draft provisional agenda, while Annex 2 provides information on topics presented under the “Regional and global policy and regulatory” section at previous ERCs, and Annex 3 lists all proposed topics as received from the HQ technical divisions and REU/SEC technical officers which were taken into consideration when developing the draft agenda. Annex 4 provides a first draft overview of the Conference Week schedule.

5. The Executive Committee members are invited to provide feedback and suggestions for finalizing the first draft of the agenda for further submission to the European Regional Group, more specifically provide comments and suggestions on:

- Selection of a topic for the Ministerial Round Table under Section II
- Selection of other topics under Section II
- Selection of topics as Information Notes

**PROPOSED FIRST DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe**  
**May 2016, Antalya, Turkey**

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**I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. **Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur** (*for decision*)
2. **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable** (*for decision*)
3. **Statement by the Director-General**
4. **Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council**
5. **Statement by the Chairperson of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe**

The statement of the Chairperson of the 29<sup>th</sup> ERC will provide a brief overview on the outcome of the deliberations of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 6-13 June 2015) on matters related to the Europe and Central Asia Region.

**II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES**

6. **Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (in 2014-15) and update on its major work streams** (*for discussion and decision*)

The CFS Chair will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Sessions reporting on activities undertaken in 2014-15.

The Chair will also highlight the main findings of the multi-stakeholder dialogue held on 2 May 2016 in Antalya. The session would be an opportunity to discuss how to improve the achievement of results in the context of SO1 results framework, by better disseminating CFS products at regional and national levels, improving collaboration with FAO decentralized offices, and increasing CFS impact on the ground; as well as discussing with CFS stakeholders how to achieve these objectives within the SO1 results framework.

7. **Ministerial Round Table: The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in the Europe and Central Asia region** (*for discussion and decision*)

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals completed its works and the final report includes 17 goals and 169 targets and offers a comprehensive vision for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture (Goal 2) in much the same way as do FAO's strategic framework Objectives 1, 2 and 4. Targets under this SDG Goal address the critical access dimension of food security, the entire spectrum of malnutrition, the productivity and incomes of small-scale farm producers, sustainable and resilient food production systems, and the maintenance of biodiversity and genetic resources. Various targets under other SDGs complement Goal 2 by addressing land tenure water resources governance, energy efficiency, food losses and waste, climate change, oceans and marine resources, ecosystems, biodiversity, forests, mountains and land/soils.

A key element in the implementation of the SDGs is the country ownership and accountability for sustainable development. This implies the necessity for integrated,

evidence-based approaches to policy formulation at national, regional and global levels, capacity development to ensure coherent, effective and inclusive governance and efficient monitoring structures.

At the same time FAO's is gearing up for support to countries in the implementation of the SDGs and with the CPFs in place FAO fully responds to country needs as also confirmed by the 39<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference in June 2015.

A key element in the successful implementation of the SDGs will be the integration of targets and indicators in the respective sectoral policies at national level. The background document would provide recommendations and suggestion for adaptation of national agriculture and rural development policies to ensure integration of the SDGs with specific focus on Goal 2.

The Ministerial round table may wish to review these recommendations and agree on possible recommendations regarding the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at regional level as a contribution to the global level debate.

**8. Fostering an enabling environment for the empowerment of rural poor for attaining food security and poverty reduction goals in agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia** *(for discussion and decision)*

The paper will discuss the major inequalities and obstacles faced by rural poor for improved food security, nutrition and rural poverty reduction in Europe and Central Asia. Its purpose will be to call member countries' attention on measures to tackle inequalities hindering food security, nutrition and poverty reduction; and urge them to renew their commitment to creating a comprehensive policy and institutional environment for rural poor, including equal access and benefit from productive resources, services and income-generating opportunities as crucial elements in the fight against food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty.

**9. Pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia - International Year of Pulses 2016** *(for discussion and decision)*

The 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYOP) ([A/RES/68/231](#)) and nominated FAO to facilitate the implementation in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The background paper will present the activities related to heightening awareness of nutritional benefits of pulses at the country level as part of sustainable food production and consumption aimed towards food security and nutrition, healthy and balanced diets. Besides nutritional benefits, pulses have extended seasonal availability and are very beneficial for soils for nitrogen enrichment, which makes pulses an attractive crop and good contributor to food and nutrition security and environment protection. Promotion of pulses production and consumption can play a significant role in linking policies and investments that integrate agriculture with improved health and nutrition. The sustainable and diversified production and consumption of pulses in the region of Europe and Central Asia may be increased through a set of nutrition-sensitive policies, programmes and actions, addressing raising awareness and knowledge on nutritional virtues and environmental benefits of pulses, as well as increasing quality, availability and access to improved seeds of broad range of varieties and cultivars of pulses. Pulses have high potential to contribute to sustainable development through contributions to inclusive economic growth, improved nutritional status and food security of vulnerable people, and environment protection.

The Member countries may, under this item, present their views for a common position for the Region to facilitate FAO's further work in this context, in the frame of implementing the Strategic Framework and taking into consideration Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development

Goals “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.

### **III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS**

**10. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Regional Conference will consider ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO’s country offices network in the region to enhance the Organization’s effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

**11. Results from the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and update on the implementation of the Regional Initiatives 2014-15** *(for discussion)*

The Secretariat will provide an overview of the main results achieved in the implementation of the PWB 2014-15 including lessons learned in the revised strategic framework. Draft results and lessons learned from the implementation of the two Regional Initiatives will also be presented. The members are expected to review the presented results and provide feedback on the lessons learned and the implementation modalities of the Regional Initiatives (RIs).

**12. Priorities for FAO’s work in the region** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Regional Conference plays a critical role in shaping the main challenges for the future work of FAO in the region and the commitments on the side of the members through guidance on the regional priorities of work of the Organization. The Secretariat will present the trends and challenges of the region (highlighting some points of importance for priority setting in the next programming cycle 2018-19) as well as suggestions for revised Regional Priorities for the 2016-17 biennium (including streamlined Regional Initiatives) based on the lessons learnt and experiences from the biennium 2014-15, considering also the approved PWB 2016-17 at the 39<sup>th</sup> Conference in June 2015.

The members are expected to review and endorse the revised Regional Priorities and the scope of the streamlined Regional Initiatives as well as to review the emerging issues for consideration in further development.

### **IV. OTHER MATTERS**

**13. FAO Governance in the Region** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms ([C 2015/26 Rev.1](#)) reviewed by the FAO Conference in June 2015 includes a number of recommendations and suggestions related to the work of Regional Conferences. The Secretariat will present the relevant recommendations and suggestions to the ERC, along with the actions required (and those already taken) to implement them.

**14. Standing item: Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Chair/Rapporteur/Secretary? of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), which takes place on 22-23 September 2015 in Budapest, will provide a summary report from the deliberations of the sessions.

**15. Report from the outcome of the debate of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Chair/Rapporteur/Secretary? of the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), which took place on 17-19 June 2015 in Lillehammer, Norway, will provide a summary report from the deliberations of the sessions.

16. **Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW)** (*for discussion and decision*)

The 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference noted that the MYPOW needs better, measurable indicators and targets in order to be a genuine results-based tool, and as such an efficient means of improving the functioning of the ERC. The Conference urged REU, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the ECA and in consultation with the members of ERG, to make further improvements in the next MYPOW for the period 2016-19.

17. **Standing item: Date, Place and Main Theme(s) of the 31<sup>st</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Europe** (*for decision*)

18. **Any other business**<sup>1</sup>

**Review and endorsement of the Report of the Regional Conference**

The draft Report, introduced by the Rapporteur, will be reviewed and discussed for endorsement.

**Closure of the Conference**

## **INFORMATION NOTES**

**Standing item: Report from regional forestry commissions**

The outcomes and recommendations of the joint session of the 38<sup>th</sup> European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 72<sup>nd</sup> UNECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry, which took place on 2-6 November 2015 in Engelberg, Switzerland, will be presented.

**Standing item: Reports from regional fisheries commissions**

The outcomes and recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) which took place on 18-20 May 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia will be presented.

The outcomes and recommendations of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) which took place on 25-29 May 2015 in Milan, Italy will be presented.

**The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020**

FAO as the lead UN agency responsible for agricultural censuses prepares and advocates decennial programmes for the World Census of Agriculture (WCA). These programmes provide guidance to countries in conducting agricultural censuses following standard concepts, definitions and classifications, and at the same time promote the availability of internationally comparable data on the structure of agriculture. Every 10 years FAO revises the Programme based on countries' experiences, lessons learnt and new data needs.

The paper will present the new World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020 which was developed for the agricultural censuses to be conducted during the period 2016-2025. The new features of the Programme will be highlighted as well as those retained from the previous Programme. Special emphasis will be made on experiences of the agricultural censuses conducted in the Europe and Central Asia Region under the previous WCA 2010 Programme (during the period 2006-2015) and their implications on the developing of the WCA 2020 Programme.

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<sup>1</sup> If they wish, delegates may comment on information notes under "Any other business".

## **List of regional and global policy and regulatory topics covered at previous Regional Conferences for Europe**

**29<sup>th</sup> ERC** - Bucharest, Romania, 1-4 April 2014 ([ERC/14/REP](#)):

1. Food Losses and Waste in Europe and Central Asia
2. International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) in Europe and Central Asia

**28<sup>th</sup> ERC** - Baku, Azerbaijan, 16-20 April 2012 ([ERC/12/REP](#)):

1. Policies for Food Security in the Region: Challenges and Perspectives – Food outlook towards 2050

**27<sup>th</sup> ERC** - Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 May 2010 ([ERC/10/REP](#)):

1. Policy response to challenges in agriculture and rural development in the Europe and Central Asia Region: sharing experience and enhancing cooperation in the Region

**26<sup>th</sup> ERC** - Innsbruck, Austria, 26-27 June 2008 ([ERC/08/REP](#)):

1. FAO and adaptation to climate change in the European region
2. Promotion of traditional regional agricultural and food products: A further step towards sustainable rural development

**25<sup>th</sup> ERC** - Riga, Latvia, 8-9 June 2006 ([ERC/06/REP](#)):

1. Contribution of rural development in meeting the World Food Summit (WFS)/Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Region
2. The view of the European Region on the role of FAO as provider of global public goods
3. Strengthening Regional Cooperation and assisting countries in controlling Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Europe, including CIS countries

**24<sup>th</sup> ERC** - Montpellier, France, 5-7 May 2004 ([ERC/04/REP](#)):

1. Food Safety and Quality in Europe: Aspects concerning in particular quality, nutritional balance, the importance of agricultural land and cultural heritage (“terroirs”)
2. Agricultural Research: its role and contribution to sustainable rural development
3. Major European Programmes, Initiatives and Fora on Agricultural Research
4. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture in the Region: Focus on Rural Poverty

**23<sup>rd</sup> ERC** - Nicosia, Cyprus, 29-31 May 2002 ([ERC/02/REP](#)):

1. Food Safety and Quality
2. Sustainable management of land and water resources: combating desertification and prevention of land degradation

## **Lists of proposed ERC topics as received from FAO HQ technical departments and decentralized offices in the Region**

### **1. CFS multi-stakeholder dialogue on how to improve the outreach of its products within the framework of the FAO Strategic Objective 1**

The session would be an opportunity to discuss how to improve the achievement of results in the context of SO1 results framework, by better disseminating CFS products at regional and national levels, improving collaboration with FAO Decentralized Offices, and increasing CFS impact on the ground; and it would represent an opportunity to discuss with CFS stakeholders on how to achieve these objectives within the SO1 framework.

### **2. The Sustainable Development Goals and its implications for Agriculture and Rural Development in the European and Central Asia Region – Monitoring and Implementation in the Region**

The focus of the paper would outline the issues and focus from an agriculture and rural development perspective in the European and Central Asia and requirements for policy actions in agriculture and rural development governance.

The breadth and depth of the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) is unprecedented. While building on the MDGs, the post-2015 goals will be of universal character and require an integrated approach that breaks down the “sector silos.

Following the Regional Ministerial Consultation on monitoring and accountability for the Sustainable development goals it became obvious that the Region requires an accountability framework. Several discussion within the UN framework and at country level have taken place already.

In this context it was highlighted that a bottom-up approach is needed regarding the monitoring and accountability framework in order to ensure ownership of national actors in such a framework and a robust UN system for supporting such a framework would be needed.

As the agriculture and the rural sector has an important contribution for the implementation of the sustainable development goals the capacities as national level and the collaboration at the regional level is of importance.

The paper should outline the current situation regarding the implementation/requirements for the sustainable development goals at national level and particularly requirements and awareness raising of authorities governing agriculture and the rural sector.

It will propose policy recommendations for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs related to agriculture and also suggestions for the functions and role of FAO in this context.

### **3. Sustainable agriculture in the post-2015 agenda: the need to address cross-sectorial interactions in the Europe and Central Asia Region (proposed as side event)**

Sustainable agriculture is high on the post 2015 agenda, and nowhere like in the Europe-Central Asia region will it become a central pillar of agricultural strategies. FAO's integrated vision and approach for the development of Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA) supports the Organization's efforts in the transition towards sustainable agriculture. It is articulated around five key principles: improving resources use efficiency; conserve, protect and enhance natural resources; protect rural livelihoods and

improve equity and social well-being; enhance the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems; and effective governance. It builds on the Organization's long experience in developing sustainability concepts, approaches and tools. Central to the SFA approach is the recognition of the need for implementation of more effective cross-sectorial approaches that address inter-sectorial trade-offs and seeks to develop synergies. There is also the need to minimize the impact of negative externality of one sector over the productivity and sustainability of other sector(s). The SFA approach acknowledges the complexity of cross-sectorial work and relies on a combination of stakeholder dialogue and evidence in order to develop co-constructed solutions for practice change in technologies, policies and institutions.

4. **Indicators for the new Sustainable Development Agenda: FAO's role in monitoring goals and targets**

5. **Fostering an enabling environment for the empowerment of rural women for attaining food security and poverty reduction goals in agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia**

The paper will discuss the major gender based inequalities and obstacles for the empowerment of rural women for improved food security, nutrition and rural poverty reduction in Europe and Central Asia. Its purpose will be three-fold:

- to call Member Countries' attention for how such inequalities hinder food security, nutrition and poverty reduction;
- to urge Member Countries to renew their commitment to create a comprehensive policy and institutional environment in which rural women, equally to men, can access to and benefit from productive resources, services and income-generating opportunities as a crucial element in the fight against food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty;
- to seek endorsement for FAO's work in the Region to support Member Countries with achieving the goal to create gender-sensitive policies, based on evidence using sex-disaggregated statistics, and institutions by enhancing national capacities in gender mainstreaming at agricultural and food security policy and at organizational level.

**Section 1.** Consequences of gender inequality to agriculture and rural development

The countries of Eastern and Southern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia have achieved significant progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment. Accomplishments include improved gender equality legislation, availability of national machineries in charge of women's issues, gender parity in primary and secondary education in almost all countries, and increased employment. Yet, structural barriers and inequalities persist, preventing full empowerment. The disadvantaged status of women in rural areas raises concerns over their vulnerabilities and their potential contribution to food security and rural poverty reduction.

**Section 2.** The need for Member Countries' commitment to create a comprehensive policy and institutional environment for gender equality mainstreaming

There is a pressing need to address these limitations and alleviate the barriers to gender equality mainstreaming, and ensure that policies and practices dealing with agriculture and rural development integrate gender concerns. However, the issues related to the status of rural women do not represent a burning issue in the public discourse or policy-making. In fact, women's issues, including rural women, are considered to be part of the



national machineries' mandate, while a bulk of policy-making in agriculture and rural development and other related sectorial policies continue to be gender neutral at large, lacking measures to address poverty among, and discrimination against rural women.

**Section 3.** FAO's work in the Region to support Member Countries with achieving the goal to create gender-sensitive agricultural, food security and rural poverty reduction policies and institutions

To effectively implement FAO's corporate gender equality policy in support of Member Countries' goals in poverty reduction and food security in the region, FAO suggests to apply greater effort in promoting the links between gender equality, sound agricultural policies and sustainable rural development, by targeting the policy level and the Ministries of Agriculture, for:

- raising Ministries' awareness on the needs to mainstreaming gender concerns into respective policies, and
- promoting policy instruments as gender budgeting and gender statistics.
- This should lead to policies that are more sensitive and inclusive and organizational structures that are more favourable and conducive for gender equality and rural women's empowerment in agriculture, food security and the rural sector.

6. **WTO and regional trade integration in the region**

The paper would **focus** on the WTO Agreements and the three main RTAs in the region: EU, EEU and FTAs. The majority of countries are currently WTO members (in the post-Soviet region seven countries), some of them in the process of accession to the WTO. Food security, improvement of market access to food in the region depends very much on whether the countries of the region are competent players and disciplined parties of the international trade.

The paper would **explore** WTO commitments of the countries in the region and how free trade agreements and two economic unions in the region fit with them.

Providing FAO technical assistance on agricultural aspects is important to speed up and complete accession of countries to the WTO and to ensure the formation and functioning of regional trade blocks in compliance with WTO. The paper would **outline** the support in this area is currently that being provided to countries through the REU Regional Initiative on Trade and Regional Integration and provide suggestions as to how this support could be enhanced.

7. **Responding to the policy challenges created by multiple and simultaneous processes of trade integration**

The paper would detail existing processes (multilateral, regional, bilateral trade agreements; economic integration) and provide a discussion of the opportunities and threats that these could pose to countries at different levels of economic development/agricultural transformation in the region. It would examine policy options available to countries to take advantage of the opportunities/mitigate the threats. The paper would outline the support in this area currently being provided to countries through the REU Regional Initiative on Trade and Regional Integration and provide suggestions as to how this support could be enhanced and up-scaled.

8. **Indicators to monitor and evaluate progress on regional priorities, for example: "Food waste and losses: methodological innovations to estimate food waste and losses along the value chain"**

9. **The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020**

10. **Rural youth employment and entrepreneurship and migration**
11. **Social protection for food security, nutrition and agricultural development**
12. **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Nutrition-ICN2: follow-up**
13. **Decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture for sustainable Blue Growth**  
With particular emphasis on (i) ratification and implementation of ILO Convention C188, (ii) promotion of FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and (iii) advancement of decent work agenda in aquaculture.
14. **Advancing Aquaculture Multi-stakeholder Platforms**  
As promoted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean ([GFCM](#)) to engage the participation of a wider stakeholder community in the sustainable development of a Mediterranean aquaculture industry.
15. **Aquaculture biosecurity governance and implementation of aquatic animal health protection systems**  
FIRA has been implementing a series of capacity building activities [national TCP and regional TCP] covering Western Balkan countries on this theme during the last 10 years.

## Draft Schedule for the 30th ERC Conference Week - Main Meetings

From	To	Sunday 01-05-2016	Monday 02-05-2016	Tuesday 03-05-2016	Wednesday 04-05-2016	Thursday 05-05-2016	Friday 06-05-2016	From	To
09.00	10.00		CSO/NGO Regional Consultation	CSO/NGO Regional Consultation	ERC Registration	30 <sup>th</sup> ERC Session	Study Tour	09.00	10.00
10.00	11.00				30 <sup>th</sup> ERC Session Opening and Introductory Items			10.00	11.00
11.00	12.00							11.00	12.00
12.00	14.00	CSO/NGO Registration		ERC Registration				12.00	14.00
14.00	15.00	CSO/NGO Regional Consultation	CSO/NGO Regional Consultation	CFS Multi- Stakeholder Consultation	30 <sup>th</sup> ERC Session	30 <sup>th</sup> ERC Session	30 <sup>th</sup> ERC Session	14.00	15.00
15.00	16.00							15.00	16.00
16.00	17.00							16.00	17.00