



European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

35/4 Meeting of the Executive Committee

2 July 2015

Espace Gabon

14.00 – 17.00

Minutes

Present

Chairperson: Ms Natalie Feistritzer (Austria)

Vice-Chairperson: Ms Alina Popescu (Romania)

Members present: Mr Siim Tidemann (Estonia)
Mr Damien Kelly (Ireland)
Mr Hilmi Ergin Dedeoglu (Turkey)

Members absent: Mr Mirosław Drygas (Poland)
Mr Vasily Lawrovskiy (Russian Federation – to establish a telephone connection failed)
Ms Marieta Okenkova (Slovakia)

REU Secretariat: Mr Raimund Jehle, Secretary of the 39th ECA (REU)
Mr Goran Stavrik, Secretary of the 30th ERC (REU)

Agenda:

- 1. Update on the Preparation of the 39th Session of the ECA 2015 in Budapest**
- 2. Agenda for the 30th Regional Conference for Europe in Turkey**
- 3. Revised cost estimation for the future session of the European Commission on Agriculture**
- 4. Update on the Implementation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17**
- 5. Update on the status of the Executive Committee membership**
- 6. Any other business**

The Chair welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the fourth meeting after the 38th Session of the ECA. While Ms Okenkova and Mr Drygas were not able to attend the meeting, Mr Lawrovskiy was not able to connect by phone due to technical problems. The

Agenda as proposed was adopted.

Agenda item 1: Update on the Preparation of the 39th Session of the ECA 2015 in Budapest

The Secretariat informed the committee on the status of technical preparations of the pre-session documents and that in most cases the first drafts of the documents were received and that they will after the review and clearances be submitted for translation by end of July. The Secretariat emphasised the introduction of ECA agenda item 3 which, as agreed at the previous ExCom meeting, will be based on a panel discussion. The concerns that the members had about the timing of the agenda item 3 were clarified explaining that after the 45 minutes panel discussion on set questions, the floor will be given to the audience for questions and position statements by members related to the agenda item.

With regards to the logistics, the Secretariat reiterated the arrangements as report at the previous ExCom meeting, informing the committee that 16 countries from the Region will be supported by Hungary through a Trust Fund, allowing two delegates per each country to participate in the ECA and that in addition, 10 CSOs will also be supported through the TF.

Action: REU Secretariat was requested to place again the ECA Agenda on the ExCom webpage under the list of documents for this fourth meeting.

Agenda item 2: Agenda for the 30th Regional Conference for Europe in Turkey

The Secretariat introduced the very first draft of the Agenda for the 30th Regional Conference for Europe to be held in Turkey in May 2016. The draft is based on the proposals received from FAO HQ technical departments and the feedback received from the Members at the Informal Consultation held in Budapest on 18-19 May 2015.

The background document prepared by the Secretariat for the Ex Com included the proposed draft provisional agenda, the topics presented at previous ERCs, and in Annex 3 all proposed topics as received from the HQ technical divisions and REU/SEC technical officers and provided a first draft overview of the Conference Week schedule.

During the discussion, the members raised the following issues:

- accepted the agenda in general and the proposal to have the SDG as Ministerial topic; in this context the secretariat indicated that so far no other region has the SDG item as topic on the agenda of the ERC
- raised concerns that there were too many topics and thus concern regarding the time available for their discussion
- requested to exclude Annex 3 (all proposed topics from HQ and REU/SEC divisions) when submitting the draft Agenda to the ERG for their meeting on 15 July
- raised concerns that item 8 (rural poor) might be too limited in its scope and dimension as presented and thus not suitable in its current form; it was clarified that while the Secretariat has no strong position on this topic, clarified that the issue is relevant for all countries as there are EU countries that have this problem, so it should be seen more as pan-European issue
- the link between the ECA topics and the ERC is established through the priorities,

since the topics discussed at ECA are taken at programming part under FAO's priorities for the Region and also the work planning

Action: REU Secretariat to submit the revised agenda without annex 3 to ERG latest by 10 July for the ERG meeting scheduled for 15 July

Agenda item 3: Revised cost estimation for the future session of the European Commission on Agriculture

The Secretariat presented the draft paper and explained in details, as outlined in the paper, why the members' travel costs and the costs for the venue and facilities cannot be compared, concluding that only the costs of the Secretariat are comparable and thus elaborated in details in the paper.

During the discussion, the following issues were raised:

- details of item 5 and 6 from the table were clarified
- members requested the removal of the word "respectively" from para 2 and asked for adjusting the references to different paragraphs
- requested the Secretariat to contact Italy and clarify with Italy if there would be interest from their side to formally host the ECA session in Rome; in case of such an interest some corrections would be required in the document

Action: The members agreed that:

- the document is agreed by the members with adjustments indicated above but also confirmed that statements as outlined in paragraph 13 and 20 were agreed.
- the Secretariat should contact Italy and ask them if they are prepared to take the responsibility of hosting the ECA; if confirmed, item 5 & 6 from the table need to be adjusted
- at the ECA, the members would take note of the costs presented in the paper and since the costs are not much different, it would at the end be a political decision on the location, not based on the costs;

Agenda item 4: Update on the Implementation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17

The Secretariat presented the item and outlined that purpose of this paper was to inform the ExCom members regarding the implementation of the work programme in the Region providing also information regarding the results of the implementation of the regional priorities related to FAO's Strategic Objectives as at end 2014. The presented paper was based on FAO's Mid-term Review Synthesis Report (MTR) 2014, which was considered by the Programme and Finance Committees in March 2015 and was also presented to the Informal Consultation meeting on 18/19 May 2015.

During the discussion, the following comments were made:

- considered that the paper was useful but emphasised that it should include more detailed information on each Strategic Objective, like numbers, beneficiaries, funds,

<p>etc.; this should be considered for future reports like this and also the ERC 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - requested clarification if also impacts reported for the reporting period; the secretariat confirmed that only outcome/output reports were available. - members reiterated that on Regional Initiative on Agri Food Trade, FAO should, as usual, continue to play a neutral role and include all countries in the region - wanted to see more details on where did the resources came from – who are the resource partners, especially per each Strategic Objective
<p>Action: n/a</p>

<p><u>Agenda item 5: Update on the status of the Executive Committee membership</u></p>
<p>The Secretariat outlined the election process within the ECA and its Executive Committee and provided an overview of the current mandate and eligibility for re-election of the Chair, Vice Chair and Members. Based on this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the mandate of the Vice Chair, Ms Alina Popescu, expires in 2016, so election of a new Vice-Chair might be required during the 39th ECA session in 2015 - the third and last mandate of the member Mr Vasily Lavrovskiy, expires also 2016, so election of a new member might be required during the 39th ECA session in 2015
<p>Action: ERG Chair should inform the members at the next ERG meeting to be held on 15 July on the elections needed and encourage them to propose candidates.</p>

<p><u>Agenda item 6: Any Other Business</u></p>
<p><u>n/a</u></p>
<p>Action: n/a</p>

<p>Closing of the Session:</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the good preparation of background documents and their support throughout the meeting.</p>
