



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

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

### **36/3 Meeting of the Executive Committee 15 June 2016**

#### **Agenda item 3 – Background note Informal Consultation of the European and Central Asia Region as preparation of the PWB 2018-19 and the ERC 2018**

### **Background**

Using Informal Consultations as an instrument for REU to interact with member countries in the Europe and Central Asia region has been successful since 2010, taking into consideration the limited presence of FAO at country level. It has been very well received by both beneficiary and donor countries in the Region and is considered an important instrument for interacting with countries between sessions of the European Regional Conference.

The main purpose of the informal consultations has been:

- 1) To review priorities in the region in preparation for the regional conference
- 2) To inform and update the member countries of the Region on the implementation of FAO's programme of work in the Region
- 3) To facilitate an exchange of views and provide a discussion platform for all members of the European and Central Asia Region to allow dialogue with countries that are not members of the European Regional Group in Rome

### **Scope of Informal Consultations**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference agreed on regional priorities as input to preparation of the Medium Term Plan (MTP)<sup>1</sup> 2018-2021 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19. Various Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) have been updated and adjusted in the Region – starting in 2017 – and country offices will also be requested to set the targets they want to achieve in 2018-19. Based on a review of the preliminary results achieved for the 2016-17 biennium and the priorities agreed by ERC, the future content and scope of the Regional Initiatives needs to be agreed.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture will be held in Budapest in September 2017. The ECA session will also be an integral element of the preparation of the

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq752e.pdf>. C. Priorities for FAO's work in the Europe and Central Asia region, para. 23-24

ERC 2018, and will discuss technical issues for decision at the ERC 2018. The results of the Informal Consultation and the ECA Session will form the basis of the agenda for the ERC 2018.

### **Timing, agenda and format of the IC**

The Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) agreed on the timing and the preliminary agenda of the Informal Consultation at its last meeting on 15 July. The Informal Consultation will be held in Budapest in May 2017 and the main elements of the IC should be:

- Implementation of FAO's programme of work in the Region and particularly the Regional Initiatives;
- Review of the priorities for the Region for the 2018-19 biennium and in particular the Regional Initiatives;

Taking into consideration the efforts to further integrate other governing bodies in the Region it is advised to involve not only the CSOs – as in 2015 – but also the Chairs of the Executive Committees/Bureaux. There should also be wider involvement of the Secretariats from ECF, EIFAAC, GFCM and CACFish in the preparation of the Informal Consultation.

Executive Committee Members advised that the format of the IC should encourage active participation and make the discussion more motivating and inclusive (e.g. with the establishment of working groups, which will present their outcomes).

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## Draft Agenda

### Informal consultation Meeting for Europe and Central Asia May 2017, Budapest, Hungary

#### Day 1

10.00-11.00	Registration	Form of session
11.00-11.30	<b>Opening, welcome, and main objectives of the meeting</b> - Representative of FAO, MoA, ERG	Plenary
11.30-12.30	<b>Session 1: Implementation of PWB 2016-2017 and particularly the Strategic Programmes and Regional Initiatives</b>	Plenary
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-16.30	<b>Session 2: Review of the priorities for the Region for the 2018-19 biennium alignment with SDGs, Climate Change Agreement and ICN2</b>  <b>Group A) Formulation of effective policies for sustainable and inclusive growth for farmers and the rural population with emphasis on smallholders and family farms within overall agricultural and development policies.</b>  <b>Group B) How to enhance the reach towards new markets through alignment of trade, food safety and SPS policies to meet WTO commitments and international food safety and quality requirements through value-chain development.</b>	Workshop led by TOs in 4 groups based on the 4 main priorities identified in the ERC in order to facilitate discussion. Facilitators present the outcomes next day.

	<p><b>Group C) Sustainable natural resource management, combating land degradation and desertification, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change, which will be key areas of action in the medium and long term.</b></p> <p><b>Group D) Addressing food insecurity and reduction of all forms of malnutrition, which are major challenges in the medium and long term</b></p>	
15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
16.30-17.30	<p><b>Session 3: Regional Commissions and Technical Committees and their contribution to the Priorities</b></p> <p><b>EIFAC</b>  <b>GFCM</b>  <b>CACFISH</b>  <b>EFC</b></p>	Workshop

## Day 2

9.00-10.00	<p><b>Session 4: Outcomes of the Workshops on Review of the priorities for the Region for the 2018-19 biennium</b></p> <p>- Facilitators of Group A, B, C, D</p>	Plenary
10.00-11.00	<b>Session 5: Future Scope of Regional Initiatives</b>	Panel discussion with a moderator and 5-6 panellists
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-12.30	<p><b>Session 6: Draft Annotated Agenda for the 40<sup>th</sup> ECA</b></p> <p><b>Draft provisional annotated agenda for the 31<sup>st</sup> ERC</b></p>	Plenary
12.30-13.00	<b>Wrap-up and close</b>	
13.00	Lunch	