

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

### 39/4 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

28 September 2022

(Online meeting)

#### MEETING MINUTES

#### 1. Opening of the meeting

The Chairperson of ECA (Mr Marios GEORGIADIS) opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Executive Committee (the ExCom) to the fourth meeting after the 42nd Session of the ECA. He welcomed Ms Terézia KRAMOLIŠOVÁ from Slovakia as new member of the ExCom. Ms KRAMOLIŠOVÁ briefly introduced herself to the participants of the meeting.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda<sup>1</sup>

The Chairperson of ECA added that under the AOB he would like to present a proposal of amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the ECA. The proposal was supported by the ExCom. The meeting agenda was adopted with this additional item.

The adopted meeting agenda is presented in Annex 2.

#### 3. Impact of the war in Ukraine on food security and related matters <sup>2</sup>

This item was presented by Mr Raimund JEHLE. In his presentation, Mr Jehle highlighted the circumstances affecting the agriculture sector and food security in Ukraine and in the region. He stressed the further risk of reduction in food production and also the forthcoming challenges in the affordability of food. He mentioned some current data on the damage and losses in the agriculture sector in Ukraine. He also mentioned the storage of grain as a key issue. He updated the ExCom on activities undertaken by FAO, including surveys and analyses, as well as the FAO Rapid Response Plan for Ukraine, with focus on maintaining food production systems, addressing breakdowns in key supply chains, monitoring the agricultural sector and food security needs and mitigating the storage deficit.

Mr GEORGIADIS proposed that at the next meeting it would be useful to hear some information and updates on agriculture and food security not only in Ukraine but in the neighbouring countries as well.

Mr JEHLE reacted that update can be given on the spill-over on neighbouring countries once the damage assessment is finalized in the affected region.

Mr CHAROUTOUNIAN raised the problem of grain storage in Ukraine including its deterioration and asked for possible measures that could be taken in order to prevent loss of storage.

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<sup>1</sup> Document number ECA\_ExCom\_39/4-1

([https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/reu/europe/documents/Events\\_2022/excom39\\_4/agenda.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/Events_2022/excom39_4/agenda.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> Background document for this agenda item is available at <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2004en>

As response, Mr JEHLE mentioned a storage strategy that includes modern storage utilities that allow longer term storage, but also emphasized the necessity of the short term storage, for example grain sleeves.

**Action:** The Secretariat to circulate Mr JEHLE's presentation among the ExCom members.

#### **4. Identification of the main technical theme and technical sub-topics for the Forty-third Session of the ECA (September 2023)**

The Secretary of ECA informed the ExCom about the result of the open call for proposals for the main theme of the Forty-third Session of the ECA. By the deadline (15 July 2022), ECA Members submitted eleven proposals<sup>3</sup> for the theme. He highlighted that even though it has been the first time that such open call was organized, it can be considered quite successful considering the number of proposals received. The submissions contained different levels of detail, so for the sake of equality at this stage the Secretariat decided to present the main titles only, without the name of the submitting Member and without any further background information or explanation.

The Secretary of ECA suggested that in order to facilitate submitting proposals with similar level of detail, the Secretariat could develop a submission form, which could be used in future calls. The ExCom supported the proposal and requested the Secretariat to present the draft form at the next ExCom meeting.

The Secretary of ECA informed the ExCom about the proposed process for the identification of the main technical theme for the next ECA Session. As the next step, REU technical officers would review the proposals submitted by the Members and short-list three proposals for the next ExCom meeting in November 2022, when the ExCom will be invited to recommend one technical theme with subtopics for the Forty-third ECA Session.

The ExCom proposed to merge the proposals with similar content and avoid themes that were discussed at previous ERC or ECA sessions. The Chairperson of the ECA highlighted that the main theme should be aligned with the biennial theme adopted by the FAO Conference and suggested that in order to facilitate the ExCom's discussions, the three selected proposals be accompanied by relevant background information when presented at the next meeting.

**Action:** The Secretariat to request background information on the proposed theme for the 43rd Session from Members that did not provide it.

REU technical officers to review the submissions and short-list three proposals, which will be presented to the ExCom meeting in November 2022 for review, discussion and selection. The short-listed proposals should be accompanied with sufficient justification, to facilitate their review by the ExCom.

The Secretariat to present at the next meeting a draft submission form for future calls for ECA themes.

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<sup>3</sup> The proposed themes by the ECA Members are available at [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/reu/europe/documents/Events\\_2022/excom39\\_4/43eca.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/Events_2022/excom39_4/43eca.pdf)

## 5. Workplan and meeting schedule for the Executive Committee of ECA for the years 2022-2023

The Secretary of ECA introduced the update of the workplan of the ExCom for 2022-2023, as decided by the ExCom at the previous meeting.

The item “Impact of the war in Ukraine on food security and related matters” was added to the workplan.

The item “Review and recommendations on the REU work programme 2022-2023 in a selected technical area” was proposed to appear on the agendas of four ExCom meetings - in November 2022 and in February, April and June 2023. Topics presented under this item would be dedicated to the four regional priorities endorsed by the 33rd Regional Conference for Europe. The priorities are addressed under the three regional initiatives: priority 1 is directly addressed by Regional Initiative 1 (RI1), priority 2 by RI2, and priority 3 by RI3. Priority 4 on food security and nutrition is an overarching priority that is addressed by all three RIs.

**Action:** The Secretariat to publish the amended workplan of the ExCom on the REU webpage.

## 6. AOB

Under this agenda item, the Chairperson of the ECA presented the proposals of amendments in the Rules of Procedure of the ECA, to ensure gender-based approach and clarity of certain provisions of the RoP. The Chairperson noted that he will share the proposed amendments with the Secretariat and proposed to discuss the matter during the next meeting of the ExCom.

**Action:** The Chairperson to share the proposed amendments with the Secretariat.

The Secretariat to share the proposed amendments with the ExCom, along with the timeline for amendment of the Rules of Procedure.

## 7. Closing of the meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting.

## Annex 1

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE****39/4 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

28 September 2022

16.00-17.30 hrs (Rome time)

Online meeting

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

	<b>Role</b>	<b>Country/Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
1.	ECA Chairperson	Cyprus	Mr Marios GEORGIADES	Present
2.	ECA Vice-Chairperson	North Macedonia	Ms Lidija POPANDONOVA	Present
3.	ECA Vice-Chairperson	Russian Federation	Mr Kirill ANTYUKHIN	Present
4.	ExCom Member	Czechia	Mr Jiří JÍLEK	Absent
5.	ExCom Member	Greece	Mr Serkos A. CHAROUTOUNIAN	Present
6.	ExCom Member	Hungary	Ms Lilla EGRI	Absent
7.	ExCom Member	Serbia	Ms Vedrana ILIĆ	Absent
8.	ExCom Member	Slovakia	Ms Terézia KRAMOLIŠOVÁ	Present
9.	ExCom Member	Uzbekistan	Mr Nuriddin KUSHNAZAROV	Present
10.	Regional Programme Leader	FAO REU	Mr Raimund JEHLE	Present
11.	Acting Secretary of ECA	FAO REU	Mr Piotr WŁODARCZYK	Present
12.	National Professional Officer	FAO REU	Ms Erzsebet ILLES	Present
13.	Executive Programme Management Specialist	FAO REU	Ms Zsafia HORVÁTH	Present
14.	ERC-ECA Secretariat	FAO REU	Ms Eniko KOTI	Present

## Annex 2

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE****39/4 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

28 September 2022

16.00-17.30 hrs

Online meeting (Zoom)

**AGENDA**

No.	Agenda Item Title	Document No./Link	Presenter
	Opening of the meeting	-	CHAIRPERSON
1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECA_ExCom/39/4-1	EXCOM
2.	Impact of the war in Ukraine on food security and related matters	ECA_ExCom/39/4-2	REGIONAL PROGRAMME LEADER
3.	Identification of the main technical theme and technical sub-topics for the 43rd Session of ECA (September 2023)	ECA_ExCom/39/4-3	ECA SECRETARY
4.	Workplan and meeting schedule for the Executive Committee of ECA for the years 2022-2023	ECA_ExCom/39/4-4	ECA SECRETARY
5.	Any other business: Proposal of amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ECA	-	PARTICIPANTS CHAIRPERSON
	Close of the meeting	-	CHAIRPERSON