

European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)**37/3 Meeting of the Executive Committee
20 September 2018****Agenda item 3 – Background note
Implementation of the recommendation of the Assessment of the European
Commission and Agriculture**

Based on the request of the 29th and 30th Sessions of the Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia (ERC) and the 39th Session of the ECA, the assessment of ECA was carried out between October 2016 and April 2017¹.

The assessment report was presented at the 40th Session of the ECA, which

- welcomed the assessment report,
- reaffirmed that all sessions should be concluded with clear recommendations focusing on FAO regional initiatives and feeding into the ERC agenda
- proposed that the 2030 Agenda should serve as an umbrella for future sessions of the ECA
- Concluded to support an “Improved ECA” model with a more technical edge as the future modality of the ECA

The 41st Session of ECA will be the first session for which the recommendations of the Assessment Report will be considered during the preparation and organization and can be further appraised.

Based on the Assessment Report, and considering on the draft annotated agenda of the 41st Session of the ECA, the following guiding questions are suggested for discussion among the Ex Com members in order to ensure the implementation of the recommendations:

1. How can we best emphasize the 2030 Agenda as an umbrella of the 41st Session?
2. How could we enhance the provision of relevant inputs from ECA to the ERC? How can we strengthen the links between the ECA discussions and recommendations, and the decision-making process in the ERC?
3. How could we further enhance the value of the technical recommendations of the ECA?
4. How can we align the discussion of the main topic with FAO regional initiatives?
5. Is the process for setting the agenda sufficiently inclusive to ensure Member's ownership?
6. What should be the profile of the delegates for the 41st ECA Session?
7. How can we further enhance the participation and contributions from NGOs, civil society and private sector?
8. What format (plenary, panel debates, working groups, etc.) would enable a strong and active participation of delegates and observers, and serve the technical debate and exchange of knowledge?

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt620e.pdf>