



European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

37/3 Meeting of the Executive Committee

07/10/2018

10.00 – 12.00 hours

Meeting Minutes

Present

Acting Chairperson: Mr Spyridon Ellinas (Cyprus)

Members present: Ms Galina Jevgrafova (Estonia) (Vice-Chairperson)
 Ms Aulikki Hulmi (Finland)
 Ms Zora Weberova (Slovakia)
 Ms Graziella Romito (Italy)
 Mr Kálmán Zoltán (Hungary)
 Mr Paul Kiernan (Ireland)

Members absent: Mr Ali Recep Nazli (Turkey)
 Ms Khatia Tsilosani (Georgia)

REU Secretariat: Ms Ariella Glinni, Secretary of ECA (REU)
 Ms Yuriko Shoji, Deputy Regional Representative (REU), Secretary of the 31st Session of the ERC
 Mr Piotr Wlodarczyk, Agricultural Officer (REU)
 Mr Morten Hartvigsen, Regional Initiative Delivery Manager, Land Tenure Officer (REU)
 Ms Katalin Ludvig, Rural Development Specialist, Deputy Regional Initiative Delivery Manager (REU)
 Ms Elmira Nessipbayeva, Planning and Programme Officer (REU)
 Ms Zsafia Horvath, Meeting and Programme Assistant (REU)

Agenda:

1. **Outcomes of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), in Voronezh, Russian Federation, 16-18 May 2018 (37/3-1)**
2. **Identification of topics and preparation of the 41st ECA in 2019, incl. strategic thinking on improving modalities, impact and strategic engagement (37/3-2)**
3. **Implementation of the recommendations of the Assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture (37/3-3)**
4. **Preparation of the Informal Consultation (IC) in May 2019 (37/3-4)**
5. **Review and recommendations on REU Work Programme 2018-19 – Regional Initiative 1 on Empowering smallholders and family farms for improved rural livelihood and poverty reduction. (37/3-5)**
6. **Workplan and Meeting Schedule of the ECA Executive Committee (37/3-6)**

7. Any other business

The Meeting was opened by the First Vice-Chairperson, Mr Spyridon Ellinas, following the resignation of Mr Damien Kelly as ECA Chairperson. Mr Ellinas would be thus the Acting Chairperson of the ECA up to the regular elections at the 41st ECA in 2019. The members of the Executive Committee expressed their agreement with this interim arrangement.

The Acting-Chairperson welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the third meeting after the 40th Session of the ECA, thanked the outstanding work carried out by Mr Kelly as Chairperson of the Executive Committee and congratulated the new members Mr Kálmán Zoltán (Hungary) and Mr Paul Kiernan (Ireland).

The Members agreed with the draft agenda for the meeting as distributed by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 1: Outcomes of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), in Voronezh, Russian Federation, 16-18 May 2018 (37/3-1)

Ms Yuriko Shoji, Secretary of the 31st Session of the ERC briefly summarized the outcomes of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), in Voronezh, Russian Federation, 16-18 May 2018. She reported on the topics raised by Members under agenda item Any Other Business, related to the International Year of Plant Health (2020) and the proposed International Year of Rye. Ms Shoji also highlighted that the ERC Secretariat is open to receive any proposals from Member Countries to host the 32nd ERC in 2020.

Overall, the members expressed their appreciation towards the ERC Secretariat for the organization of the 31st Session of the ERC.

Action:

No action needed

Agenda item 2: Identification of topics and preparation of the 41st ECA in 2019, incl. strategic thinking on improving modalities, impact and strategic engagement (37/3-2)

Ms Ariella Glinni summarized the preparation process for the draft Annotated Agenda of the 41st ECA in 2019. Mr Piotr Włodarczyk presented the draft Annotated Agenda, which will focus on the plant health issues in view of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020.

In answer to the questions of the Ex Com Members, the Secretariat informed that Hungary already expressed interest to host the 41st ECA in 2019 in Budapest and the proposal was approved by the 40th Session in 2017. Mr Kálmán Zoltán confirmed that Hungary is ready to host the Session.

The Members confirmed their agreement with the draft Annotated Agenda and appreciated the high quality document.

Action:

Secretariat to prepare the second draft of the Annotated Agenda of the 41st Session of the ECA, reflecting the outcomes of the ad hoc meeting of the Ex Com on the Implementation of the recommendations of the ECA Assessment, and to present it at the next Ex Com meeting in January 2019.

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the recommendations of the Assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture (37/3-3)

Ms Glinni introduced the item. To support the discussion among the Ex Com Members some guiding questions were suggested to facilitate the review of the implementation of the Assessment's recommendations and to consider it during the preparation and organization of the 41st Session of ECA, which will be the first session following the ECA Assessment.

Members agreed to have a joint ad hoc Meeting of the Ex Com of the ECA with ERG to discuss the Implementation of the recommendation of the Assessment based on the suggested guiding questions by the Secretariat. The acting-chairperson informed that the invitation to the ad-hoc meeting will be extended to the Members of the European Regional Group (ERG).

Action:

Acting Chairperson to inform and invite the ERG members to the ad hoc Meeting of the Ex Com, to be held preferably on 29 October 2018.

Secretariat to organize and support the agreed ad hoc meeting.

Agenda item 4: Preparation of the Informal Consultation (IC) in May 2019 (37/3-4)

Ms Glinni briefly summarized the background and scope of the Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia and introduced the first draft concept note of the Informal Consultation in May 2019 and main sessions envisaged.

To answer the questions of the Ex Com Members, the Secretariat

- Informed members that in the current stage of preparation there are no identified speakers for the panel discussions and the Secretariat is open to receive suggestions in this regard;
- Highlighted that the draft concept note follows the same format as the last Informal Consultation held in Budapest in 2017, which can be discussed and modified at the next Ex Com meeting in January 2019.

Action:

Secretariat to prepare the first draft of the agenda of the Informal Consultation and to present it at the next Executive Committee meeting in January 2019.

Agenda item 5: Review and recommendations on REU Work Programme 2018-19 – Regional Initiative 1 on Empowering smallholders and family farms for improved rural livelihood and poverty reduction. (37/3-5)

Mr Morten Hartvigsen introduced the Regional Initiative 1 on Empowering smallholders and family farms for improved rural livelihood and poverty reduction (RI1).

Overall, the Members expressed their appreciation and support to the RI1 and interest in receiving any additional documents on the initiative.

Action:

No action needed.

Agenda item 6: Workplan and Meeting Schedule of the ECA Executive Committee (37/3-6)

The Secretariat presented the Ex Com time schedule and session plan for the current biennium up to the 41st Session of the ECA, with no changes from the last version presented at the second Ex Com meeting.

Members requested to include the agreed joint Ad Hoc Meeting of the Executive Committee of the ECA with ERG on the ECA Assessment follow-up to the workplan.

Action:

Secretariat to add the agreed Ad Hoc Meeting of the Executive Committee of the ECA on the ECA Assessment follow-up to the workplan

Agenda item 7: Any other business

No other issues were raised

Action:

No action needed

Closing of the Session:

The Acting-Chairperson thanked the Ex Com members for their participation and contribution, as well as the Secretariat for the good preparation of background documents and their support throughout the meeting.