

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

38/1 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17 December 2019
FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

MEETING MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chairperson of ECA (Mr Paul KIERNAN) opened the meeting and welcomed the Members of the Executive Committee to the first meeting after the 41st Session of the ECA. He congratulated the new members, Ms Lorena PULLUMBI (Albania), Mr Jiří JÍLEK (Czechia), Ms Lilla EGRI (Hungary), Ms Daria JANJIĆ (Serbia) and Ms Ekaterine ZVIADADZE (Georgia).

Welcome to the participants

Mr Nabil GANGI, the Deputy Regional Representative, and Mr Raimund JEHLE, the Regional Programme Leader, welcomed the participants and congratulated the elected Members of the Executive Committee (ExCom). Mr Gangi emphasized the importance of the ECA in the overall governance in the region and the great example the region has to show to others. Mr Jehle stressed the key issues for FAO's work in the region for the next biennial period (2020-2021).

Presentation of participants

As this was the first meeting of the newly elected ECA Executive Committee (ExCom) and some of the Members and participants did not have an opportunity to meet before, the Chairperson requested all to introduce themselves briefly.

The participants list is presented in Annex 1.

Adoption of the agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted.

The adopted meeting agenda is presented in Annex 1.

2. Briefing of the new Members of the ECA Executive Committee on the mandate, tasks and work modalities of the Executive Committee

The Acting Secretary of the ECA (Mr Piotr WLODARCZYK) briefed the Members of the ExCom on the mandate, tasks and work modalities of the ExCom, based on the Rules of Procedure of ECA (RoP).

Some Members noted inconsistencies regarding current practice as well as feasibility of the RoP to be followed, e.g. Rule III/paragraph 3 (*"The Executive Committee shall meet whenever the Commission holds a session."*), but also other issues, for which a revision of the RoP may be needed. This issue was deferred for discussion at a later meeting.

Action:

The ECA Secretariat is requested to review the RoP and to provide in the next meeting the results of the review regarding possible adjustments for consideration by the ExCom.

3. Draft work plan and meeting schedule of the ECA Executive Committee for 2019-2021

The ECA Secretary presented the draft work plan and meeting schedule of the ExCom for the current biennium up to the 42nd Session of ECA, which is planned to take place in the second half of 2021, not later than six months before the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) in 2022.

Overall, Members expressed their agreement with the work plan and meeting schedule.

Answering the questions of the ExCom Members, the ERC Secretariat explained the role and responsibility of the ExCom in relation to the preparation and finalization of the ERC background documents: ExCom serves as consultative body for choosing the main topics of the ERC and reviewing the draft Agenda of the Session. However, the background documents for the Session are prepared by FAO. The ExCom's role is to establish an active linkage and information flow between the Secretariat and the Members, to keep the Members updated on the status and the specifics of the Conference (invitation, preliminary attendance, registration site, possibility of bilateral meetings, etc.).

Action:

ECA Secretariat to add the scope of 'meeting 38/2' mentioned in Annex 2 of the draft workplan and schedule of meetings of the ExCom for 2019-2021 (document ECA_ExCom/38/1-2) to the list in Annex 1, for consistency.

4. Update on the results of the 41st Session of ECA (Budapest, Hungary, 1-2 October 2019)

The ECA Secretary briefly updated the participants on the conduct, content and main recommendations of the 41st Session of ECA, as outlined in the report from the Session. In particular, he noted that the main technical theme for the Session was identified in the context of the International Year of Plant Health proclaimed by the UN in 2020.

The Members noted the update and thanked the Secretariat for the presentation.

Action:

Secretariat to share with the Members the speaking points of the Secretary presented at the meeting.

5. Update on the status of preparations for the 32nd ERC (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5-7 May 2020)

On behalf of the ERC Secretariat, Mr Goran STAVRIK informed the Members on the status of preparations for the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), including the following:

- the Conference will take place at Hilton Tashkent City hotel;
- the on-line registration will start in March;
- third-person invitation letters will be sent out in the beginning of January;
- Uzbekistan will host the Consultation of the Civil Society Organizations one month before the Session;
- Members requested REU to ensure that the background paper for the main ERC topic "Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Diets in Europe and Central Asia" uses agreed language and is in line with the FAO and WHO publication "Sustainable Healthy Diets Guiding Principles".

Action:

ERC Secretariat to update Members at the March meeting, and the Europe Regional Group (ERG) upon request.

6. Any other business

Members suggested that a gavel and a sounding block, engraved with the name of the outgoing Chairperson, will be presented to each Chairperson at the end of his/her term.

The Chairperson suggested that certificates of recognition be developed by the Secretariat and be awarded to the Members of the Executive Committee at the end of their terms.

Action:

REU to review the proposals and respond to the ExCom.

7. Closing of the meeting

The Chairperson thanked the ExCom Members for their participation and contribution, as well as the ECA Secretariat for the good preparation of background documents and their support throughout the meeting and at the 41st Session of ECA, and closed the meeting.

Annex 1**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE****38/1 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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PARTICIPANTS LIST

	Role	Country/Organization	Name	Present/Absent
1.	ECA Chairperson	Ireland	Mr Paul KIERNAN	Present
2.	ECA 1st Vice-Chairperson	Slovak Republic	Ms Zora WEBEROVA	Absent
3.	ECA 2nd Vice-Chairperson	Cyprus	Mr Marios GEORGIADES	Present
4.	ExCom Member	Albania	Ms Lorena PULLUMBI	Present
5.	ExCom Member	Czechia	Mr Jiří JÍLEK	Present
6.	ExCom Member	Georgia	Ms Ekaterine ZDIADADZE	Present
7.	ExCom Member	Hungary	Ms Lilla EGRI	Present
8.	ExCom Member	Italy	Ms Graziella ROMITO	Absent
9.	ExCom Member	Serbia	Ms Daria JANJIĆ	Present
10.	Deputy Regional Representative, Secretary of the ERC	FAO REU	Mr Nabil GANGI	Present
11.	Senior Field Programme Officer, ERC Secretariat	FAO REU	Mr Goran STAVRIK	Present
12.	Regional Programme Leader	FAO REU	Mr Raimund JEHLE	Present
13.	Acting Secretary of ECA	FAO REU	Mr Piotr WLODARCZYK	Present
14.	ERC-ECA Secretariat	FAO REU	Ms Zsafia HORVÁTH	Present

Annex 2**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE****38/1 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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MEETING AGENDA

No.	Agenda Item Title	Document No./Link	Presenter
	Opening of the meeting	-	KIERNAN
	Welcome to the participants	-	GANGI / JEHLE
	Introduction of participants	-	PARTICIPANTS
1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECA_ExCom/38/1-1	EXCOM MEMBERS
2.	Briefing of the new Members of the ECA Executive Committee on the mandate, tasks and work modalities of the Executive Committee	Rules of Procedure of ECA (http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu352e.pdf)	WLODARCZYK
3.	Draft work plan and meeting schedule of the ECA Executive Committee for 2019-2021	ECA_ExCom/38/1-2	WLODARCZYK
4.	Update on the results of the 41st Session of ECA (Budapest, Hungary, 1-2 October 2019)	ECA 41 Report (http://www.fao.org/3/nb770en/nb770en.pdf)	WLODARCZYK
5.	Update on the status of preparations for the 32nd Regional Conference for Europe (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5-7 May 2020)	-	GANGI / STAVRIK
6.	Any other business	-	PARTICIPANTS
7.	Close of the meeting	-	KIERNAN