



THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF ECA

(prepared by the ECA Secretariat)

Background

During the meeting of Executive Committee (ExCom) in December 2019, the ExCom discussed briefly the provision of the Rules of Procedure¹ (RoP) of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) regarding the scheduling of an ExCom meeting back to back with the ECA Session (Rule III.3). The ExCom requested the ECA Secretariat to analyze this rule, review the RoP and present the results of the review to the ExCom at the next meeting.

The intention of this paper is to present the results of the Secretariat's review of the RoP to the ExCom and request guidance of the ExCom on the way forward.

Introduction

As requested by the ExCom at the December 2019 meeting, the ECA Secretariat reviewed the RoP, with the focus on provisions relating specifically to the ExCom and its work. Based on the findings of the review, the Secretariat advises that there is no urgent need for the amendment of the RoP, but for the establishment of a common practice related to the relevant working modalities of the ExCom. The findings of the review and discussions are the following.

The results of the review of the RoP

Based on the review of the RoP of ECA, the ECA Secretariat would like to bring the following two items to the attention of the ExCom.

- With reference to the elections of the ExCom (Rule III.1), the RoP do not provide a detailed procedure for the submission of nominations of candidates for the Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and the ExCom members. In practice, during the preparations for the 41st ECA Session (Budapest, October 2019), it was agreed between the Secretariat and the ECA Acting-Chairperson that the Acting-Chairperson will coordinate the process of the submission of nominations, and will notify the ECA Secretariat about the nominees. This agreement was strictly followed and the nominees were elected by ECA at its 41st Session.
- Rule III.3 of the RoP stipulates that *'the Executive Committee shall meet whenever the Commission holds a session'*. During the Secretariat's review and discussions of the RoP it was clarified that the provision relates to the meeting of the new composition of the ExCom, with its newly elected members. Experience from the past session shows that there is a difficulty to fulfil this requirement, as usually not all of the nominees are present at the session, where they are re-elected or elected, respectively. This is due to the fact that the nominees for the ExCom are not always part of the country delegations, which may also be related to the specific technical focus of the relevant sessions. Based on the analysis by the Secretariat, Members should be encouraged to ensure that the ExCom nominees are part of relevant country delegations to ensure the possibility to hold the meeting of the newly elected Committee after

¹ The Rules of Procedure of ECA are available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu352e.pdf>

the close of the Session and to ensure quorum. The ECA Secretariat also discussed the content and possible agenda of the meeting, and concluded that it could be dedicated to the introductions of the new members of the ExCom, presentation of the mandate, working modalities and procedures for the ExCom, as well as to the discussion and endorsement of the ExCom work plan and meeting schedule for the relevant biennium.

The ExCom is invited to:

- Note, discuss and provide comments on the results of the review of the RoP of ECA;
- Discuss the practice on nomination of candidates followed at the 41st ECA Session and provide recommendations on the establishment of a common practice to be followed at the next ECA Sessions;
- Discuss and provide recommendations on the content and agenda of the meeting of the newly elected composition of the ExCom held at the ECA Session.