

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE
38/6 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

30 March 2021

(Online meeting)

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 sixth meeting after the 41st Session of the ECA. Furthermore, the Chairperson thanked the members for their flexibility and availability, and the Secretariat and REU staff for their support.

The participants' list is presented in Annex 1.

Adoption of the agenda

The ExCom requested that under AOB the issue be addressed of rewarding the members of the ExCom with certificates of recognition and rewarding the ECA Chairperson with a gavel and sounding block. This issue was raised during the ExCom meeting in October 2020, but there were no conclusions.

The meeting agenda was adopted with the above item added under AOB. Taking into account the availability of officers from the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the agenda items were not discussed in the order of the agenda.

The adopted meeting agenda is presented in Annex 2.

2. Preparation of the 42nd Session of ECA (2021), including strategic thinking on improving modalities, impact and strategic engagement

Mr WLODARCZYK summarized the main points requiring decision and approval from the ExCom. Ms KENNY and Mr ARIAS introduced the sub-topics identified by REU for discussions during the Session of ECA under the umbrella of the main technical theme.

The ExCom discussed the wording for the main technical theme of the Session and decided that the final wording would be "Transforming food systems to address all forms of malnutrition in Europe and Central Asia".

The ExCom welcomed the three technical discussion topics and their descriptions developed by REU under the umbrella of the main technical theme of the ECA Session.

The ExCom agreed that the preferred date for the 42nd Session would be in October, organized as a physical meeting. When setting the final date, the RBA calendar, including the CFS Session should be considered. The decision whether the Session should be a physical or online meeting was deferred to a later meeting, when more information is available on the pandemic situation and travel restrictions within the region.

Engaging Members to nominate rapporteurs for the Session was considered crucial. The ExCom and the Secretariat agreed to use all possibilities to raise awareness on the issue among the Members and encourage them to prepare nominations for rapporteurs. The ExCom agreed that for this

purpose any communications from the Secretariat to all Members could be used, e.g. sending the agenda of the ECA Session, etc. Moreover, the ExCom requested that the Secretariat prepare a detailed explanation note on the role of the rapporteurs at the ECA Session, which would be presented to the Members of the region at the Informal Consultation.

The ExCom supported the procedure for nomination of candidates for the ECA elections, which was presented in the meeting document 38/6-4.

The Secretariat confirmed that careful planning is being undertaken and all effort will be made to make the background documents for the 42nd Session of ECA available to Members of the region 30 days before the Session.

The ExCom agreed that the first meeting of the newly elected ExCom should take place without any unjustified delay. Members supported the idea that the agenda for that meeting be drafted by the Secretariat and be presented to the new ExCom for adoption at the start of the meeting.

Action:

Secretariat to finalize the annotated agenda with the approved sub-topics under the identified main technical theme.

Secretariat to identify possible dates for the 42nd ECA Session, taking into account the RBA calendar.

Secretariat to develop a detailed information note on the role of the rapporteurs at the ECA Sessions, to be shared with the Members of the region.

Secretariat to raise awareness on the role and importance of the rapporteurs for the ECA Session at the Informal Consultation and to invite Members to prepare candidates for rapporteurs when the ECA Session agenda is distributed.

Secretariat to organize and coordinate the procedure of nominations for the ECA elections, as described in the meeting document.

3. Preparation of the 2021 Informal Consultation

Mr Raimund JEHLE presented the background document, highlighting the importance of the Informal Consultation (IC) in REU work programming. Responding to questions received from the ExCom, Mr JEHLE:

- confirmed that the goal of the event is to generate fruitful discussions, rather than give one-sided presentations. Active participation of Members is expected.
- confirmed that the 42nd ECA Session agenda and the proposed 33rd ERC main topics will be incorporated into the current IC agenda for the last day, under the Senior Officials Meeting.

The ExCom appreciated the update and gave flexibility to the Regional Office on choosing the date of the event from the two proposed time slots (17-20 May 2021 or 31 May - 3 June 2021), taking also into account the RBA calendar.

Action:

Secretariat to inform ExCom about the final date of the IC, when it is decided.

Secretariat to raise awareness on the importance of the rapporteurs for the ECA Session at the Informal Consultation.

4. Review of progress made by REU on the recommendations of the 41st Session of ECA

Ms. Dono ABDURAZAKOVA provided updates on the implementation of the [REU regional gender equality strategy and action plan for 2019-2022](#). With the renewed [FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030](#), the objectives, activities and targets of the regional gender strategy remain valid, moreover, the strategy already has commitments related to accountability, and roles and responsibilities in gender mainstreaming. The details of the accomplished and on-going work have been provided in the paper, but new activities in knowledge building and capacity development are well underway, and include regional studies analyzing key gender issues in the region, with the impact of COVID-19, and in technical areas relevant to FAO mandate. Support of the ECA in translating the recommendations from these studies to policy level will be of critical relevance and importance.

Due to time constraints, the ExCom agreed to provide comments on the implementation of plant health-related recommendations of the 41st ECA Session in a written procedure.

Action:

Secretariat to organize the written procedure for the section on the implementation of plant health-related recommendations of the 41st ECA Session.

5. Roles and responsibilities of the ExCom in relation to ECA and ERC

Due to time constraints, the ExCom agreed to postpone the discussion on this item to the next meeting. The ExCom requested the Secretariat to update the “ExCom Information Document” and to present it at the next meeting.

Action:

Secretariat to update the “ExCom Information Document” and to include the item on the agenda of the next Executive Committee meeting.

6. Any other business

Members brought to the attention of the Secretariat, that an official response is still awaited from the Regional Office on the initiative proposed at the 38/1 ExCom meeting: “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. Certificates of recognition be developed by the Secretariat and be awarded to the Members of the Executive Committee at the end of their terms.”

The Secretariat reassured the ExCom, that the initiative is not forgotten, and currently under review by the Legal Office.

Action:

Secretariat to inform ExCom as soon as the legal opinion is received.

7. Closing of the meeting

The Chairperson thanked the ExCom members for their participation and contribution, as well as the ECA Secretariat for good preparation of background documents, their support throughout the meeting and wished everyone a healthy and relaxing holiday season, and closed the meeting.

Annex 1**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE****38/6 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

30 March 2021

14.00-16.00 hrs (Rome time)

Online meeting

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	Present
3.	ECA 2nd Vice-Chairperson	Cyprus	Mr Marios GEORGIADES	Present
4.	ExCom Member	Albania	Ms Lorena PULLUMBI	Absent
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	Present
9.	ExCom Member	Serbia	Ms Daria JANJIĆ	Absent
10.	Deputy Regional Representative, Secretary of the ERC	FAO REU	Mr Nabil GANGI	Present
11.	Regional Programme Leader	FAO REU	Mr Raimund JEHLE	Present
12.	Senior Field Programme Officer, ERC Secretariat	FAO REU	Mr Goran STAVRIK	Present
13.	Senior Gender and Social Protection Advisor	FAO REU	Ms Dono ABDURAZAKOVA	Present
14.	Food Safety and Quality Officer	FAO REU	Ms Mary KENNY	Present
15.	Economist	FAO REU	Mr Pedro ARIAS	Present
16.	Programme Coordination and Planning Officer	FAO REU	Ms Erzsebet ILLES	Present

	Role	Country/Organization	Name	Present/Absent
17.	Acting Secretary of ECA	FAO REU	Mr Piotr WŁODARCZYK	Present
18.	ERC-ECA Secretariat	FAO REU	Ms Zsafia HORVÁTH	Present

Annex 2**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE****38/6 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

30 March 2021

14.00-16.00 hrs (Rome time)

Online meeting

AGENDA

No.	Agenda Item Title	Document No./Link	Presenter
	Opening of the meeting	-	KIERNAN
1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECA_ExCom/38/6-1	PARTICIPANTS
2.	Preparation of the 42nd Session of ECA (2021), including strategic thinking on improving modalities, impact and strategic engagement	ECA_ExCom/38/6-2	WŁODARCZYK
3.	Preparation of the 2021 Informal Consultation	ECA_ExCom/38/6-3	JEHLE / ILLES
4.	Review of progress made by REU on the recommendations of the 41st Session of ECA	ECA_ExCom/38/6-4	ABDURAZAKOVA, WŁODARCZYK
5.	Roles and responsibilities of the ExCom in relation to ECA and ERC	ECA_ExCom/38/6-5	GANGI, WŁODARCZYK
6.	Any other business	-	PARTICIPANTS
	Close of the meeting	-	KIERNAN