

Executive Committee

Minutes

Thursday, 8 June 2023 (13:30 – 16:00 CET)

BusinessEurope, Av. de Cortenbergh 168, 1000 Brussels

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez

Click [here](#) to access the Chair's presentation.

Adoption of draft agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (30.03.23): adopted

Action points of the last meeting

- **State-of-play of the decision made during the last meeting - information**

- Working Groups:

- Draft advice on “Improving the Labelling Legislation for Plant-Based Imitations of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products” to be considered via written procedure
 - Advice adopted (via written procedure) on 8 May 2023

- Reimbursement Rules:

- Suggested changes to be integrated into the new draft guidelines on reimbursements
- Once the new financial guidelines of DG MARE are finalised, adoption of the new draft guidelines on reimbursements to be considered
 - Pending finalisation of the new financial guidelines of DG MARE

- Statutes and Rules of Procedure:

- Secretariat to proceed with the necessary update of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure to meet the requirements of the new Code of Companies and Associations of Belgium
 - Pending

- AOB:

- Under the draft agenda of the next meeting, agenda item on impact of inflation on the consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products to be scheduled
 - Invitation sent and accepted by the Secretary of State for Fisheries of Portugal, but agenda item had to be cancelled



Farm to Fork Strategy

- **Keynote speech**

The Chair informed that the exchange with Ms Delilah Al Khudhairy, Director of MARE A, would have to be rescheduled to the September 2023 meeting. Instead, Mr Frangiscos Nikolian, Head of Unit of MARE A4, would deliver a presentation about the upcoming priorities of the Commission and their relevance for the MAC, as the Executive Committee would soon have to prepare the work programme of the next operational year (1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024).

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) apologised on behalf of Ms Al Khudhairy and expressed her willingness to exchange at the September 2023 meeting. Mr Nikolian explained that 2023-2024 would be the final year of the current Commission's mandate. The Commission services were instructed to avoid tabling new legislation proposals after the summer. Some delayed proposals could be tabled by October 2023 at the latest.

Mr Nikolian highlighted that, since 2016, the MAC provided 71 pieces of advice, including 22 in 2021 and 14 in 2022. Despite difficulties in the first years, the MAC was now operating successfully and providing meaningful advice to the Commission. The MAC has a special nature, since it is composed of the entire fisheries and aquaculture value chain (producers, processors, retailers) and other interest groups, while the other Advisory Councils were focused on production. In the recent years, the MAC covered a wide range of topics, such as sustainable corporate governance, the framework for a sustainable food system, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, the landing obligation, IUU fishing, and the annual economic reports on aquaculture and fleet.

Mr Nikolian drew attention to the fisheries policy package published in February 2023, which was composed of three communications and one report: communication on the Common Fisheries Policy, communication on the energy transition of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector, communication on biodiversity and protection of marine ecosystems, and the report on the Common Market Organisation. The package addresses different aspects of fisheries policy, particularly continuous growth of fisheries and resilience.

Concerning the communication on the energy transition, Mr Nikolian informed that, on 16 June 2023, there would be a high-level event to launch the energy transition partnership, a platform for interested stakeholders to engage in the energy transition and decarbonisation of the sector. The aim is to have a sector that is more resilient and less dependent on fossil fuels. At the end of the process, the Commission hopes to have a voluntary roadmap with steps to reduce GHG emissions and ultimately reach neutrality by 2050, while also accounting for existing mandatory commitments on decarbonisation under the EGD.

Concerning the action plan to protect and restore marine ecosystems, Mr Nikolian recognised that the reception of the communication had been controversial, particularly the recommendations to be developed by the Member States to phase out mobile bottom contacting gear from Marine Protected Areas and he stressed that this is not a blanket ban. This action will require further discussions with the Member States for a gradual transition to less damage to the seabed, especially in the most



sensitive marine areas. The communication is more relevant for the production's side, but there could be an effect on the market, particularly on consumption.

Concerning the communication on the Common Fisheries Policy, Mr Nikolian stated that, under the next period, the Commission would continue to work on how to improve the implementation and how to face the current challenges. There are also several action plans there.

Concerning the report on the Common Market Organisation, Mr Nikolian emphasised that there were two actions of relevance for the MAC. First, DG MARE will be launching a compliance exercise on the Member States in relation to the Producer Organisations, particularly checks on criteria for recognition of Producer Organisations. Second, DG MARE will look into labelling, as there is evidence that labelling is not applied consistently across Member States, including mandatory information mostly at retail-level.

Mr Nikolian recalled that the Farm to Fork Strategy includes several initiatives of relevance. The MAC submitted 10 pieces of advice connected to Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives, including on the Sustainable Food System Framework, animal welfare, value of seafood, the Food Supply Contingency Plan, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Business, the EU promotion programme for agricultural and food products, food contact materials, and green claims, which was an impressive amount of work by the Advisory Council.

Mr Nikolian underscored that, under the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Sustainable Food System Framework is a key initiative. The Commission services are preparing an evaluation report and an impact assessment, so that the legislative proposal can be tabled by September 2023. As it is a framework law, there will be further specific legislation on labelling requirements, on public procurement, on governance, among others.

Concerning the legislative proposal on green claims, Mr Nikolian expressed satisfaction that specific provisions on fisheries were included. Discussions were ongoing with the Technical Secretariat responsible for the Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for Marine Fish. As for actions on blue food, the Commission representative expressed interest in advice related to algae and shellfish products. In relation to these, cooperation with the Aquaculture Advisory Council would be welcomed.

Mr Nikolian recalled that political agreement had been reached on the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation. After a transition period, all products will be covered by the regulation, meaning the processed products will be covered by traceability obligations. The aim is the full digitalisation of control activities. The MAC should follow-up on the agreement. The Commission representative informed that a study on the inclusion of processed products under the traceability obligations would be launched.

Mr Nikolian noted that there were several continuous points across the years that were the relevant for the MAC, such food safety and hygiene rules, level-playing-field, free trade agreements, among others. Since there will not be new legislative proposals during the final year of the Commission's



mandate, it is an opportunity for the MAC to go more in depth into other topics. MARE A4 will continue to be available to exchange on the priorities of the MAC's work programme.

- **Exchange of views**

The Chair thanked Mr Nikolian for the information provided, which would allow the work programme to be prepared in accordance.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA), in the context of information to consumers in smaller shops, expressed interest in the final text of the political agreement on the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation. Information to consumers is connected to traceability data. The main issue is that retailers continue to have to manually transcribe labels. A retail entrepreneur must spend almost two hours a day manually transcribing the information to the final consumer that comes in the paper traceability document. Digital transmission of information would facilitate the work very significantly. Electronic labels have continuously improved. Until recently, there were problems with labels not being resistant to water or humidity. Manual compliance with the labelling obligations was difficult and with the electronic transmission between operators of traceability information, the information could be electronically captured to the final consumer for the electronic label at the counter.

Ms Álvarez expressed concern about direct sales without traceability. Fishing vessels were allowed to sell significant amounts of fishing products without traceability. There must also be fair competition with other products, since the origin is not always known.

Alessandro Manghisi (MSC) requested information on the revision of the marketing standards framework. Mr Manghisi requested more information on the relationship between the Unfair Trading Practices Directive, the Empowering the Consumer for the Green Transition initiative, the legislative proposal on substantiating green claims, and the Sustainable Food System Framework, including on how it would affect the Marine Stewardship Council.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) agreed with Ms Álvarez that traceability was essential to ensuring labelling. Mr Nikolian recalled that there was ongoing work in STECF concerning sustainability criteria for fisheries and aquaculture products. The aim is to develop criteria based on publicly available data, avoiding additional costs, which means that traceability will be essential. Digitalisation will be taking place. The Commission is looking to ways to reduce the reporting obligations / rationalisation of obligations .

Concerning the revision of the marketing standards framework, Mr Nikolian explained that this was being covered within the Sustainable Food System Framework, particularly the labelling aspects. Work was ongoing with STECF to develop sustainability grading criteria for fisheries and aquaculture products, which will be used in the development of an EU sustainability label for all food products.

Sean O'Donoghue (KFO), in relation to the report on the functioning of the Common Market Organisation, wondered about the reference to legislative changes. Mr O'Donoghue wanted to know what legislative changes were foreseen and whether the proposals would come before the next



European elections. Mr O'Donoghue also wanted to know more about the compliance exercise on the recognition of Producer Organisations, particularly the purpose of the exercise.

Massimo Bellavista (COPA COGECA) argued that the Farm to Fork Strategy initiatives were focused on consumption by consumers at their table. In his view, in the strategy, initiatives related to traceability and consumer information at the HORECA level were missing.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) explained that, in order for the Common Market Organisation to be modified, an evaluation and an impact assessment would have to be carried out. If a market failure was identified, then there could be results to a legislative proposal. The report on the functioning of the Common Market Organisation identified some problems, particularly on labelling. Several other problems were identified, for example the designation of algae products under the Combined Nomenclature, and the clarity of information on origin. Mr Nikolian informed that a revision of the Common Market Organisation would not take place under the current mandate. Under the Sustainable Food System Framework proposal, there could be an obligation of regular evaluations of several food-related policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.

Mr Nikolian agreed that information to consumers and labelling at HORECA level could be improved, which was something that DG MARE was accounting for.

Concerning the compliance exercise on POs, Mr Nikolian recalled that such an exercise took place in 2016, which resulted in an infringement procedure against the UK. Under Article 20 of the Common Market Organisation Regulation, there is an obligation for the Commission to check whether Member States have adequate systems in place for the recognition requirements of Producer Organisations. The Commission will be sending letters to the Member States requesting information about the checks done since 2016 and the problems identified. The Commission will look especially into the democratic function and membership of Producer Organisations. In his view, the exercise was positive for Producer Organisations, since it prevented discriminatory treatments. In the past, in some Member States, it led to an expansion of the criteria to allow the establishment of Producer Organisations for small-scale coastal fisheries.

Marine Cusa (Oceana) informed that her organisation established the "Follow the Fish" movement, which calls for better traceability and a mandatory sustainability ranking system. Ms Cusa wanted to know more about the minimum sustainability requirements under the Sustainable Food System Framework.

Daniel Voces (Europêche) requested information on the state-of-play of the Taxonomy Regulation and the screening criteria for fisheries, recalling that the MAC adopted advice on the matter. Europêche and EAPO received a letter from Commissioner McGuinness indicating that the Commission received recommendations from the Platform on Sustainable Finance, but that no decision had been made.

Pierre Commère (AIPCE) express eagerness to know the results from the political agreement on the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation, particularly on traceability and definition of lots. Mr Commère argued that, sometimes, there was some conceptual misunderstandings concerning



“traceability” and “information to consumers”. Traceability is applicable to all processed products, which is a well working sanitary system. Mr Commère expressed hope that the transition period for processed products will allow a better understanding of the different steps of the supply chain. He wanted to know about the possibility of a revision of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation and of the Common Market Organisation Regulation under the next mandate.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) responded that he was not able to disclose information about minimum sustainability requirements under the Sustainable Food System Framework. Internal discussions were ongoing, including political considerations. The framework will include principles and objectives. As for minimum requirements that would ban products from the market, it remained to be seen.

On taxonomy, Mr Nikolian explained that he did not have information beyond Commissioner McGuinness’s letter. Technical screening criteria for fishing activities would likely only come later in the process. At the moment, the Platform on Sustainable Finance is not working on fishing. It could be relevant to wait for the developments under the Sustainable Food System Framework.

Mr Nikolian clarified that that he did not say there would be a revision of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation and of the Common Market Organisation Regulation under the next mandate. If there is political will for a revision, several steps will have to be taken, such as an evaluation. Several elements for improvement of the Common Market Organisation have been identified which can feed discussions for political consideration.

On the coverage of processed products under the Fisheries Control Regulation, Mr Nikolian highlighted that a study would have to be carried out to better determine how processed products would be covered. The MAC should be involved in the mentioned study. After the transition period, all products would be covered by the traceability requirements.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) made reference to the Commission’s commitments for the development of sustainable aquaculture. Mr Guillaumie called on the Commission to review its human resources. In the case of aquaculture, there is only one unit, which was not sufficient.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) emphasised that food safety traceability worked well across the supply chain. Nevertheless, in the case of the fisheries sector, there were specific fisheries traceability requirements that need to be transmitted electronically, including in processed foods. Ms Álvarez exemplified that, in Spain, these were a regional competence, which translated into difficulties in inspection activities. Additionally, veterinary authorities do not make checks on that specific traceability for fisheries because they consider that it is not their competence.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE), concerning the review of human resources, highlighted that there were budgetary restrictions. Each Directorate-General identifies its strategic needs. Mr Nikolian committed to convey the Mr Guillaumie’s message internally.

Mr Nikolian agreed with Ms Álvarez. Traceability is necessary to facilitate labelling. The ongoing exercises on labelling would provide additional clarity on how traceability is applied. The Commission



representative mentioned the fishing auctions in Vigo as a positive example of comprehensive and digitalised traceability. He expressed hope that the described problems would be resolved through the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation.

Pierre Commère (AIPCE) underscored that traceability was about knowing where which products was moved. Every company selling canned products knows what products were bought. In some cases, information on the products is missing. Mr Commère expressed hope that the upcoming study would provide clarity on the existing gaps and the definition of traceability.

Membership of General Assembly

- **Endorsement of new member Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation Limited (ISEFPO) from Ireland**

The Secretary General informed that a membership application was received from the Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation Limited (ISEFPO). In line with the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation, the Secretariat sent a letter to the Irish authorities requesting their endorsement. It was deemed that tacit endorsement from Ireland was provided.

According to information provided by Mr John Lynch, representative of the organisation, the ISEFPO has 39 members with 60 vessels mainly from the East and South coasts of Ireland, plus some members from the ports right around Ireland. The vessels range in size from under 10 meters to 40 meters. The vessels operate in nearly all sectors of the Irish fishing industry, such as whitefish, nephrons, scallop, small and medium scale pelagic fish, with a selection of inshore vessels fishing for lobster and crab. The ISEFPO represents all of the vessels in Ireland's specific scallop and beam trawl segments. Their office is based in Waterford, near the fishing harbour of Dunmore East.

According to the application form, the objective of the organisation is to represent members, as a Producers Organisation, to protect and ensure sustainable employment, equal opportunities and future viability in the fishing industry for all their members, their families, and the coastal fishing communities.

The Executive Committee endorsed Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation Limited (ISEFPO) as a new member of the General Assembly.

Working Groups

- **Reporting by Julien Lamothe, Chair of Working Group 1**

Julien Lamothe (EAPO) reported back on the different agenda items from the 7 June 2023 meeting of Working Group 1:

- EUMOFA: An exchange of views with a DG MARE representative on the methodology for an EUMOFA study on the supply chain of the EU tuna sector within the global tuna market took place. The working group decided that the interested members would coordinate among themselves, before the end of June, to answer the questions of DG MARE.



- Common Market Organisation: As a follow-up to the report on the functioning of the Common Market Organisation, EAPO delivered a presentation on the role of Producer Organisations.
- STECF: The Aquaculture Advisory Council presented a proposal of joint advice on the Economic Report on the EU Aquaculture Sector. The working group reached agreement on the proposed text, agreeing to put it forward to the Executive Committee for consideration and potential approval.

The Executive Committee approved the joint advice “Inclusion of indicators on economic sustainability in the STECF’s “The EU Aquaculture Sector” report”.

- Brexit Adjustment Reserve: EAPO delivered a presentation on the expected impact on EU supply due to decommissioning schemes in some Member States.
- Awareness and Role of Producer Organisations (POs): Nicolás Fernández Muñoz delivered a presentation about projects undertaken by OPP72 under their Production and Marketing Plan. The working group discussed the importance of raising awareness on the role of Producer Organisations across the sector and to a broader audience.
- Joint MAC/NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group on Brown Crab: Norah Parke, Chair of the Focus Group, delivered an update on their latest work and management of brown crab.

Pierre Commère (AIPCE) reported back on the different agenda items from the 7 June 2023 meeting of Working Group 2:

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO): Mr Castro de Souza, Senior Fishery Officer at FAO, delivered a presentation on an upcoming database on preferential trade agreements.
- Trade Agreements & Trade Policy Instruments: A DG MARE representative delivered a state-of-play on recent trade agreements, including on New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, India. The Commission representative also provided updates on the EEA trade agreement, the economic partnership agreements with ACP countries, and the USA’s Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs): A DG MARE representative delivered a state-of-play on market supply from SFPAs.
- Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence: Since the invited Commission representative was not able to attend, the comprehensive discussion was postponed.
- Banning Forced Labour: The external consultants delivered a presentation on the external study on forced labour in the fisheries and aquaculture market. Members were asked to provide feedback within three weeks.

The Secretary General, on behalf of Benoît Thomassen (FEAP) reported back on the different agenda items from the 8 June 2023 meeting of Working Group 3:



- Substantiating Green Claims: A DG ENV representative delivered a presentation on the proposal for a directive on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims. The working group agreed to reassess previous advice, in order to determine if new advice would be relevant.
- Hygiene and Sanitary Issues (Inorganic Arsenic): A DG SANTE representative delivered a presentation about upcoming legislation on the maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in certain foodstuffs. The working group agreed to wait for new legislative developments before taking further action.
- Hygiene and Sanitary Issues (Stiffening) A PSPR representative delivered a presentation on the ongoing update to food hygiene rules for products of animal origin, specifically stiffening of smoked fillets. The working group agreed to wait for the reply of the Commission to a letter previously sent by AIPCE-CEP.
- Online Sales to Consumers: FEDEPESCA delivered a presentation on the initiative “La Pescadaria Artesanal”, an online platform for traditional fishmongers to sell to consumers.
- EU Algae Initiative: The working group considered the draft advice on the “EU Algae Initiative”. The working group reached agreement on the proposed text, agreeing to put it forward to the Executive Committee for consideration and potential approval.

The Executive Committee approved the advice “EU Algae Initiative”.

- Cell-Based Protein of Aquatic Animals: The consideration of the draft advice was postponed to the September 2023 due to lack of time.

Horizon Europe

- **Exchange of views about project call “Choose your fish: a campaign for responsible consumption of products from the sea”**

The Secretary General informed that, under Horizon Europe, there was a call for a project titled “Choose your fish: a campaign for responsible consumption of products from the sea”, which was open until 20 September 2023. The expected outcome of the project are: an accessible and engaging media products to inform on seafood and aquaculture consumption choices; more informed purchase choices by European citizens; encouraging sustainability of consumption patterns; support knowledge and consumption of local and seasonal products; and create an awareness campaign, including communication products.

The Secretary General informed that the Secretariat was contacted by a researcher of the University of Ghent who were considering applying to the call. The researcher wanted to know if the MAC would be interested in participating in a consortium application. The Secretary General stated that, since the MAC did not have previous experience in project calls, it could be quite complex to participate. Nevertheless, he encouraged members to consider participating on behalf of their organisations. If the MAC was to be involved, the Executive Committee would need to determine the level of



participation, for example coordinator or partner. Even if the MAC was not involved, it would still be possible to invite the selected consortium to present the results of the project.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) wondered if there would be access to the campaign products of the project, including the possibility of suggestions and that they would like to participate.

The Secretary General responded that members could apply to the call, so that they can be the ones developing the campaign products. If the MAC is not participating in the project, the Secretariat could invite the selected consortium to present the results in a meeting.

Massimo Bellavista (COPA COGECA) informed that he had been contacted by the University of Bologna about a potential application to the project. The European Food Information Council would also be involved. Mr Bellavista stated that, if there were other interested parties, they could discuss and build a strong strategy.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) requested additional information on the project and about the contact from the University of Ghent.

The Secretary General explained that he had been contacted by a researcher of the University of Ghent, which was considering whether the university should apply. In case of an application of the University of Ghent, the researcher wanted to know if the MAC would be involved.

Daniel Voces (Europêche) wanted to know if the idea would be to be partners of the project. Mr Voces highlighted that there was also the possibility of the MAC providing a letter of support.

The Secretary General responded that, from his understanding, the researcher was expecting for the MAC to take an active role, since it would guarantee feedback from stakeholders across the supply chain during the entire project. The Secretary General agreed that it would be useful to wait for the internal discussions in the University of Ghent before deciding.

The Chair proposed to wait for additional information from the University of Ghent before a decision would be made.

Reimbursement Rules

- **Update of the guidelines on reimbursement of travel expenses and subsistence allowances**

The Secretary General explained that the new financial guidelines for the management of the EU lump sum grants to Advisory Councils were still being finalised by DG MARE. As previously agreed, the adoption of the new guidelines on reimbursement of travel expenses and subsistence allowances would wait for the finalisation of the financial guidelines. The Secretary General informed that DG MARE appointed the new coordinator for relations with the Advisory Councils, Ms Rubeck. Therefore, the financial guidelines were likely to be finalised soon.

Secretariat



- **Exchange of views about appointment of the Secretariat**

The agenda item took place in-camera.

Inter-Advisory Council's Coordination

- **Reporting back on the following meetings:**
 - **Inter-Advisory Councils Secretariats with DG MARE (18 April 2023)**

The Secretary General informed that, on 18 April 2023, DG MARE organised a coordination meeting with the secretariats of the 11 Advisory Councils. The main aim was to inform the secretariats about the fisheries policy package, particularly the actions for the Advisory Councils to be involved. In the context of the communication on the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission announced the creation of an annual award for sustainable innovation in fisheries. The Advisory Councils will be invited to propose the award criteria and the criteria for the selection of an independent jury.

There were also administrative discussions about procedures, recommendations, Commission participation in Advisory Council meetings, the organisation and representation in Inter-Advisory Council meetings, and the financial aspects including guidance on the lump-sum.

- **Inter-AC Brexit Forum (15 May 2023)**

The Secretary General recalled that the Inter-AC Brexit Forum is composed of the MAC, NSAC, NWWAC, PELAC and LDAC. The Inter-AC Brexit Forum met on 15 May 2023. The meeting was chaired by Ms Bermúdez and the secretariat was provided by the MAC. At the meeting, Commission representatives delivered a debriefing on recent meetings of the Specialised Committee for Fisheries and Working Groups, plus information on the timeline of upcoming meetings. Members discussed management and enforcement measures by Scottish authorities. Additionally, there was a discussion on a list of horizontal topics. The Secretary General further recalled that the Inter-AC Brexit Forum meetings are considered to be confidential by the Commission, so minutes would not be circulated. At the meeting, no market topics were addressed.

- **European Maritime Day (24-25 May 2023)**

The Secretary General explained that the European Maritime Day took place on 24 and 25 May 2023 in Brest, France. There were high-level panels on the blue economy, which counted on the participation of Commissioner Sinkevičius, Director-General Vitcheva, the State Secretary for the Sea of France, among other high-level speakers. In the panel, fisheries and aquaculture were mentioned several times, but, in his view, the main themes were decarbonisation and marine spatial planning, particularly to allow wind energy production. Algae production was also mentioned several times.

The Secretary General informed that, at the invitation of EAPO, he moderated a workshop on “sustainability from producers to consumers”, which included speakers from EAPO, WWF, MSC, EuroCommerce, and DG MARE. He highlighted that DG MARE organised a pitch session titled



“Common Fisheries Policy – today and tomorrow”, which consisted of an interactive event to raise awareness on the fisheries policy package.

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)

- **Reporting back on Advisory Board (19 April 2023) meeting**

Alexandra Philippe (MAC Secretariat) recalled that the EFCA Advisory Board was composed of representatives of the Advisory Councils to advise the Executive Director of the Agency and ensure close cooperation with stakeholders. Each Advisory Council provided a state-of-play on their work programmes, especially focusing on control matters. On behalf of the MAC, at the meeting, she provided information on several pieces of advice, specifically those on China’s global distant water fleet activities, the implementation of the landing obligation, harmonised import controls to prevent IUU fishing products from entering the EU market, and the Sustainable Food System Framework. She also provided information on discussions held by the members on IUU carding system, Additional Tariff Quotas, and the landing obligation.

Ms Philippe informed that the Executive Director of EFCA presented the draft annual report for 2022. Their budget was fully implemented and there were increasing inspection and infringement activities. The Executive Director also presented the draft single programming, which includes the multiannual work programme for 2024-2028 and the annual work programme for 2024. The priorities are coordination, compliance, and operational support to the Member States.

Ms Philippe further explained that, following a letter from the Advisory Councils to DG MARE, EFCA included an agenda item on the visibility of Advisory Councils. The Executive Director informed that the agency was making efforts to increase the visibility of the Advisory Councils, including on their official website.

AOB

- **Revision of Fisheries Control Regulation**

Sean O’Donoghue (KFO) emphasised that the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation was relevant for the three MAC Working Groups. Therefore, each working group should analyse how they would deal with the topic.



Summary of action points

- Working Groups:
 - Advice on “EU Algae Initiative” to be sent to DG MARE and to the Member States
 - Secretariat to inform the AAC Secretariat of the endorsement of the advice “Inclusion of indicators on economic sustainability in the STECF’s “The EU Aquaculture Sector”
- Secretariat:
 - Chair to prepare document with different options, including costs, to be circulated ahead of the next meeting
 - Decision on the appointment to be made at the next meeting, in order to facilitate the set-up ahead of the 2023-2024 operational year
- AOB:
 - Effects of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation to be considered by the three Working Groups at the September 2023 meetings



Attendance List

Representative	Organisation	Role
Alen Lovrinov	Omega 3 Producers Organisation	Observer
Alessandro Manghisi	Marine Stewardship Council	Member
Alexandra Philippe	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Andrea Albertazzi	European Transport Worker's Federation (ETF)	Member
Aoife Curtis	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)	Member
Bruno Guillaumie	European Molluscs Producers Association (EMPA)	Member
Daniel Voces	Europêche	Member
Emiel Brouckaert	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) / Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (via proxy)	Member
Gaëtane Le Breuil	European Fishmeal	Member
Christine Absil	Good Fish	Member
Frangiscos Nikolian	European Commission	Expert
Guus Pastoor	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Member
Isabel Mariño Prieto	Conxemar	Member
Javier Ojeda	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Julien Lamothe	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Laure Guillevic	WWF	Member
Katarina Sipic	European Federation of National Organizations of Importers and Exporters of Fish (CEP)	Member
María Luisa Álvarez Blanco	Federación de Asociaciones Provinciales de Empresarios Detallistas de Pescados y Productos Congelados (FEDEPESCA)	Member
Marine Cusa	Oceana	Member
Massimo Bellavista	COPA COGECA	Member
Miguel Lizaso	European Commission	Expert
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Pierre Commère	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE) / ANFACO-CECOPECA (via proxy)	Member





Market Advisory Council

Representative	Organisation	Role
Rosalie Tukker	Europêche	Member
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Member
Sean Parramore	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)	Member
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	Member
Yobana Bermúdez	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Chair

