

General Assembly

Minutes

Friday, 20 September 2023 (13:30 – 15:15 CET)

Copa Cogeca, Rue de Trèves 61, 1040 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 (27.01.23): adopted

European Green Deal in relation to the Common Fisheries Policy and Markets

- **Keynote speech by Delilah Al Khudhairy, Director, MARE A**

Delilah Al Khudhairy (DG MARE) presented and gave updates on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Package focusing on the Marine Action Plan and the Initiative on the Energy Transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. First, Ms Al Khudhairy emphasised that the Marine Action Plan aims at accompanying the fisheries sector to deliver the commitments of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 putting forward concrete actions to enable the Common Fisheries Policy to contribute effectively towards those commitments. She added that it tries to align the environmental policies and fisheries and to improve cooperation between the stakeholders concerned. She insisted that it is not a legal proposal but that it sets a path of dialogue towards implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. Second, on the Initiative on the Energy Transition, she recalled that the Energy Transition Partnership was launched just before the summer. She explained that the aim of the Initiative is to help transforming the sector into a more resilient and more sustainable sector by 2050. She added that, on the one hand, it proposes to build on the existing technology (energy efficiency) in the short term, and on the other hand, in the medium/long term, to switch to alternative/cleaner fuel. It sets out a vision for the sector acknowledging that there are challenges and barriers and the question of financing. She highlighted that the important component of the Initiative is to deliver through the Energy Transition Partnership that is developing a roadmap by the end of next year to set the paths and directions to enable the energy transition of the sector by 2050.

Ms Al Khudhairy provided information on the Farm to Fork Strategy and its goals. First, she mentioned the necessity to ensure sustainable food production across all the value chain and to promote a sustainable consumption. She added, in that regard, that sustainable consumption also means to better inform consumers so they can shift to more sustainable and healthier diets. Second, she mentioned the necessity to reduce food waste and loss. Third, she highlighted the importance of food security. On food waste, she explained that reducing food waste will help the sector to move towards



climate neutrality. She underscored a study that concluded that reducing food waste is one of the most effective solutions to combating climate change. She added that food waste in the EU represents 59 million tonnes and that in terms of GHG emissions, it represents 16% of the total GHG in the EU food system. She highlighted that the Commission adopted a legislative proposal in the context of the Waste Framework Directive which brings legally binding targets for waste to be accomplished by the Member States by 2030. She added that these targets are also set for the EU to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals 12.3 on food waste. Therefore, the targets proposed aim at reducing food waste by 10% in the processing and manufacturing sectors and by 30% in the retail and consumption sectors. The baseline comes from a campaign that was carried out monitoring the food waste in the EU in 2020. She added that there will be a review by the end of 2027 to look at the progresses.

Ms Al Khudhairy talked about the Sustainable Food System initiative thanking the MAC for its advice on the issue. She explained the importance of understanding that the aim of the legislation would be to have a common understanding of sustainability by all the actors in the food system. She added that it means identifying general principles and objectives that can underpin future food related policies across the whole food system (production – distribution – consumption). She further explained that the impact assessment accompanying the proposal is also looking at issues such as food availability, stability, security and prices including the impact of third countries and the competitiveness of the EU food production. She concluded that the work is ongoing but that no clear timeline is set yet.

Ms Al Khudhairy touched upon the Guidelines for a Sustainable and Competitive Aquaculture that set a vision for the sector to become more competitive and resilient that includes concrete recommendations and proposals that are continuously worked on by the Commission with the stakeholders towards implementation. She added that the Advisory Councils are important in the context of implementation of the Guidelines. She also covered the Organic Production Action Plan that aims at increasing the production of organic aquaculture.

Ms Al Khudhairy mentioned the Animal Welfare Legislation. She explained that animal welfare is an important aspect of the Farm to Fork Strategy in the context of a Sustainable Food System to ensure animal welfare to consumers and aquaculture producers. She added that welfare conditions are important to prevent diseases and to ensure quality of the products. She highlighted that the Guidelines for a Sustainable and Competitive Aquaculture already include actions focusing on animal welfare but that the Commission is also working on setting up an EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare to accompany and complement legislations on animal welfare. She further added that DG MARE will be working with DG SANTE on that matter. She concluded by saying that she cannot talk about a clear timeline already.

Ms Al Khudhairy mentioned the Algae Initiative (adopted end 2022) with the aim of promoting algae as an alternative protein source but that also touch upon all its non-food characteristics. She explained that the objective is to establish a strong sector with a number of actions that focus on building that sector to make it competitive in close coordination with all the relevant stakeholders. She added that the algae sector is a very attractive sector in the context of the European Green Deal (decarbonisation - zero pollution – biodiversity - sustainable food) because it “ticks all the boxes”. She



further explained that it has advantages compared to on-land production as it does not need fertilisers, land or fresh water and it can produce highly nutritional and low carbon food. She added that it can provide services to the marine ecosystems to reduce eutrophication for instance. Nonetheless, the EU sector is still in its infancy and most of the production globally is dominated by Asia. She concluded that it is an opportunity because the demand is very high and that there is a market to fill. The Commission is also putting in place mechanisms to assist the sector such as the EU4Algae stakeholders' platform to help develop the business side of the sector.

Ms Al Khudhairy spoke about sustainability information thanking the MAC for its different advice on the matter. She explained that one of the important goals of the Farm to Fork Strategy is enhancing transparency and traceability to enable consumers to make better informed decisions. She added that it has an important role in convincing the consumers to enhance and increase their consumption. She further added that the Commission adopted a proposal for a Green Claims Directive that applies to both food and non-food products. The objective of the Directive is to bring about a level playing field inside the EU and to communicate the environmental benefits of the products to the consumers. She explained that the plurality of labels in the EU is confusing for the consumers. The Directive aims at protecting the consumers from green washing by helping them to take informed decisions on the basis of substantiated claims and labels that are verified and well communicated. The Directive will be putting forward very clear criteria so that companies need to substantiate their environmental claims and labels. She gave the example of fisheries products: the economic actor who makes an explicit environmental claim about fisheries products would have the obligation of due diligence to provide the evidence that will substantiate the sustainability of the targeted fish stock. She added that the requirements of the proposal imply that all the environmental labelling schemes need to be reliable, transparent, independently verified and regularly reviewed.

Ms Al Khudhairy explained that the Commission is also working on the revision of the marketing standards in relation to a sustainability pillar the context of the Sustainable Food System Initiative. She added that the Commission is working with STECF on methods to look at the grading of fisheries products including looking at the sustainability of the targeted stock, the impact of fishing activity on the seabed and on sensitive species. She underscored that good progresses have been made on the two first indicators but that challenges remain for the sensitive species.

Ms Al Khudhairy then concluded with two elements: the EU Fisheries Control Regulation and food security. On the EU Fisheries Control Regulation, she explained that an agreement was reached and that it will bring changes such as: modernisation, digitalisation and remote electronic monitoring and CCTV for those of high risk of non-compliance with the landing obligation. She added that one of the important components is the traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products through improvement of the catch certificate. These new rules will apply to imports and will be extended to processed products as from 2029. It means that processed products that will be placed on the EU market will have the same level of traceability information as fresh products including the governance, the fishing area and the catching vessel. She highlighted that the Commission would continue enforcing the level playing field inside and outside the EU working closely with EU operators to ensure their competitiveness vis-à-vis the external ones. On food security, she emphasised that the subject was put forward in the agenda due to the invasion of Ukraine. She further explained that the Commission



came out earlier this year with an analysis that looked at the external drivers affecting food security. She added that the aim of the analysis is to provide a canvas to be used for any future policies as a reference in the design.

Ms Al Khudhairy explained that DG MARE is also working with DG AGRI and DG SANTE on implementing the contingencies for food supply and food security. They are working with public administration and stakeholders in several groups of the Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM). The idea is to improve the crisis preparedness and response in the supply chain to known and unknown future shocks. She further explained that one of the first deliverables of the EFSCM is the online dashboard on food security (launched at the end of last year). She added that the dashboard will allow to provide timely information on disturbances in the food market. She further explained that the EFSCM also endorsed a couple of recommendations: (1) price communication and (2) diversity of supply. To feed the discussions on the work of the EFSCM, the Commission also launched a study to look at vulnerabilities and risks along the EU food supply chain and also all the critical infrastructures that will be published soon.

Ms Al Khudhairy further highlighted that a lot of things are going on mentioning that the MAC Work Programme that will be adopted touches upon these issues and more. She added that the cooperation with MAC is very important especially regarding the trust that enables the dialogue with the stakeholders. She concluded by appreciating the excellent cooperation with the MAC throughout the years and voiced to continue like this in the future.

- **Exchange of views**

The Chair thanked Ms Al Khudhairy for her intervention and gave the floor to the members.

Guus Pastoor (Visfederatie) thanked Ms Al Khudhairy and explained that there are many good initiatives in Europe for the moment and maybe a bit too much to be handled at the same time. Mr Pastoor explained that what the sector wants is to provide the consumers with the right products and help to make the transition to other proteins but, in the end, it comes down to the availability of products: if there is no product, there is no market, and it will not be possible for the consumers to eat more fish. He added that it is difficult to motivate people to eat more fish especially in this economic conjuncture showing how vulnerable this sector is. While listening to the policies presented, he wondered if the definitions for sectors and production are the right ones. He added that, to him, production is the primary and the secondary production because both are needed to provide products to consumers. He emphasised that he does not see the connections in the policies between the different parts of the value chain and expressed that the market power of the retailers can be used to help the sector to reach these goals. He regretted that it is not reflected in the plans. He voiced for a broader view and coherence to be put forward to achieve food security. As an example, he explained that the presentation of the Commission's new Autonomous Tariff Quotas proposal shows that there is no integrated approach and that the value chain is not considered as a whole.

Delilah Al Khudhairy (DG MARE) replied that she agreed that the Autonomous Tariff Quotas required an integrated approach. She added that the proposal will be extended for a couple of years and that an



impact assessment will be conducted to investigate different dimensions in an integrated manner. She underscored that everything should be done in an integrated way taking the example of the crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. She mentioned the studies conducted on crisis and preparedness arguing that it is conducted in a holistic manner. She agreed with Mr Pastoor that when we talk about having a resilient food system a broader and interconnected approach is needed.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) also thanked Ms Al Khudhairy for her intervention. Mr Guillaumie pointed out some incoherence regarding Commission's different interventions. He highlighted that in her intervention, the Director is talking about the guidelines on aquaculture to enhance EU aquaculture competitiveness although it is already good. He added that in, her speech on the State of the Union, President Ursula von der Leyen called for the recognition of the ecosystem benefits of aquaculture, but nothing was mentioned about its contribution to food security. He further explained that it can be noticed in the Maritime Spatial Planning that aquaculture is absent. He argued that there is incoherence in the discourses and that at the end nothing is done. He explained that the only ones that dared to provide quantitative indicators on aquaculture is DG RTD in the EU Mission Ocean (objective 13): +20% of shellfish production by 2025 and +70% in 2050 and that we are far from that. He mentioned that nobody looks at that and that nobody asks the aquaculture producers. He acknowledged that there are some improvements in the discourses because we are talking about aquaculture now whereas it was not the case before, but nothing is being done.

Delilah Al Khudhairy (DG MARE) replied that the Commission is looking at the figures and publishes a biannual report on aquaculture with statistics and variation between products consumption in the Member States. She added that we need to work together to see how to enhance the consumption of aquaculture products. She further explained that if we look at the variation in the Member States in the biannual report, it can be noticed that only Portugal is eating as much non-fish products as fish products. She argued that statistics and knowledge are very important to improve the situation.

Frangiskos Nikolian (DG MARE) added that DG MARE gave a lot of importance on aquaculture giving the example of the budget allocated to aquaculture (around 1 BEUR) in the EMFF programming period.

Delilah Al Khudhairy (DG MARE) further added that there are some challenges in aquaculture such as the space, administrative burden, among others, arguing that it the reason why Maritime Spatial Planning and Multiannual Aquaculture Plans are important. Ms Al Khudhairy explained that guidance is prepared to overcome these challenges and that a workshop will take place over three days in October to discuss these guidance documents. Furthermore, the Blue Forum has been established in that regard to bring all the stakeholders together with a focus on spatial planning and on aquaculture. She concluded that it is the objective to reverse the tendency for aquaculture production and businesses to reduce and to have indicators now to monitor the sector on annual basis to be able to act fast.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) emphasised that all discussions should be framed in the context of the consumer's right to a healthy, sustainable, and affordable diet. Data shows that



consumption is decreasing at an alarming rate. In Spain, in the last ten years, for all types of fisheries and aquaculture, there was a decrease in consumption of 8kg, representing a 30% decrease. EU consumers are not eating fisheries and aquaculture products to the level recommended by healthy diet guidelines. Ms Álvarez mentioned that there were several sociocultural factors at play, such as nutrition education, a tax policy that does not support healthy diets, and loss of skills in the selection and cooking of unprepared meals.

Delilah Al Khudhairy (DG MARE) agreed with Ms Álvarez Blanco and explained that a discussion on launching a comprehensive study on consumers' consumption habits across the EU is taking place. Ms Al Khudhairy added that an important part of encouraging consumers is related to the information provided to them especially on sustainability, quality, among other factors. She further mentioned that an important tool to encourage consumers are the information campaigns giving the example of the aquaculture campaign that will take place next year.

John Lynch (ISEFPO) also thanked Ms Al Khudhairy and mentioned the different requirements for the EU fishing fleet that will be put into place in the framework of the EU Fisheries Control revision. Mr Lynch asked the Director how it will be ensured that the imported products have the same standards as the EU products.

Frangiscos Nikolian (DG MARE) replied to the question on behalf of Ms Al Khudhairy explaining that there are different ways in place to ensure a level-playing-field between EU and imported products, such as the catch certificate and the sustainable development chapters in the free trade agreements and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements. Mr Nikolian added that it is not possible to ban imports of products as it is important for food security.

Jennifer Reeves (MSC) asked for more clarity on the timeline of the Sustainable Food System Initiative, including for the impact assessment, arguing that it was hoped to be put forwards earlier, since it provides definitions and principles for other legislations.

Delilah Al Khudhairy (DG MARE) repeated that there is no information yet on the timeline.

The Chair Ms Al Khudhairy and Mr Nikolian for their interventions.

Work Programme of Year 8 (2023-2024)

- **Presentation of priorities and deliverables by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General presented the draft Work Programme of Year 8 that will start on 1 October 2023. The Secretary General recalled that the draft was prepared by the Executive Committee at the 3 July 2023 meeting and submitted to DG MARE on 20 July 2023. He added that the members of the General Assembly would be asked to approve the draft at the present meeting. He then made a brief presentation of the Program beginning with the introduction and the priorities: Sustainable Food System Framework, Trade Agreements and Trade Policy Instruments, IUU Fishing and Global Governance, EUMOFA, landing obligation, STECF, Fisheries Control Regulation, and PEFCR. He added



that it a continuation of the work that is going on current year. He mentioned a section on the division of the competence between the three working groups. He then presented the planned recommendations for Year 8, which represent the commitments to DG MARE of the advice that are going to be adopted. He explained that, under the lump-sum approach to the finances, the funding will be provided by the Commission only if 50% of the commitments are fulfilled (recommendations and meetings organised).

The planned recommendations are the following:

1. Substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims (legislative proposal)
2. Work Programme of EUMOFA, including suggestions of analysis topics and talks
3. Analysis of market-related aspects of the new Fisheries Control Regulation
4. Legislative Proposal on Sustainable Food System Framework
5. 2024 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF)
6. Annual Report on the implementation in 2023 of the landing obligation (particularly new developments when compared to previous advice)
7. Energy Transition (increase of operational input costs)
8. Marine Action Plan
9. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
10. Development of sustainability criteria for fishery and aquaculture products (STECF)
11. Annual EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement implementation report (Border Target Operating Mode)
12. 2023 Economic Report on the Fish Processing Industry (STECF)
13. Integration of sustainability considerations in the Additional Tariff Quotas (ATQs) framework
14. Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for unprocessed Marine Fish products

In terms of meetings, the Secretary General explained that it will be the same as the year before except for a new group of meetings in November 2023 to take place online. He recalled that the meetings are either fully in-person in Brussels or fully online.

The Secretary General concluded by saying that informal feedback was previously provided by DG MARE and that formal agreement is still pending. He then asked for the formal approval of the General Assembly.

Pierre Commère (ADEPALE) argued that, given the timing announced by the Commission for point 13 on the integration of sustainability considerations in the Autonomous Tariff Quotas (ATQs) framework, the timing to provide advice would be quite reduced. He suggested to remove it and to include it in the 2024-2025 period.

The Chair expressed agreement with Mr Commère.

The Secretary General explained that DG MARE confirmed that some work on the topic would be done in 2024 and that the Commission was eager for the MAC to react already in 2024. He added that if the members think it is not realistic, it can be postponed.



Anne-France Mattlet (Europêche) asked about the timing on the commitment on the development of sustainability criteria for fishery and aquaculture products,

The Secretary General replied that the STECF would be meeting in later 2023 to work on the topic and would publish reports. Therefore, the aim would be to react to the reports.

- **Presentation of budget by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General informed that the budget was prepared by the Executive Committee and submitted to DG MARE, but a formal reaction from the Commission services was pending. The Secretary General explained that the income section was prepared under the assumption that the financial contributions from the Member States would be the same as in Year 7, meaning 3000€ per Member State plus €6000 from Spain. It is also assumed that the members' contributions will be the same, while that the Commission's contribution would be the same plus 2% to reflect inflation. The grand total of the budget would be €367,188.90.

The Secretary General outlined the staff costs and recalled that the Executive Committee approved a change to the functioning of the Secretariat, which meant that there would be a direct work contract for the Secretary General Position, while the two financial and administrative support positions would be outsourced via a call for tender. The total costs for staff would be €153,056.

Concerning the participation in meetings, the Secretary General explained that there was an increase when compared to the previous operational year. The European Commission adopted new financial guidelines for the Advisory Councils and these suggested higher amounts for subsistence and accommodation allowances than before. The Executive Committee had been prepared new guidelines for the reimbursement of expenses and allowances, which were expected to be approved later that day, meaning that there would be higher rates under Year 8. Some additional amount was allocated to the participation in Inter-Advisory Councils meeting, since the Commission would no longer provide individual reimbursements for the participation in these meetings, meaning that the amount should be covered by the budget of the Advisory Councils. Therefore, €70,324 were allocated for the members participation in meetings. Additionally, €7,300 was allocated to travels made by the Secretariat.

Concerning the preparation of meetings, the Secretary General outlined the costs of renting venues and equipment, adding that the aim was to rent venues with a moderate price. €16,320 were allocated to rental of venues and €24,400 were allocated to other meeting expenses. He further explained the amounts for dissemination, namely for the website, emails, mailing, among others. On operating costs, the plan was to change the official seat of the association to a shared workspace, which meant a smaller allocation of money to the rental of office space: €2,000. There were amounts allocated for additional equipment, phone, supplies, and bank accounts.



The Secretary General explained that the costs foreseen for interpretation and translation were the same as in Year 7, totalling €76,0000. As for other contracts, the costs covered the external financial audit, the external accountant, and the payroll agency, totalling € 9,319.40.

The Chair highlighted that the main change was in the functioning of the Secretariat, as the Secretary General position would be hired via a direct work contract, while the administrative and financial support functions would continue to be outsourced. The changes would also impact the rental of office space. The Chair explained that, as it was the first time that the MAC ASBL hired an employee, it would qualify for a tax reduction from the Belgian authorities. Therefore, it was important to have an official seat separate from the one of the service provider to avoid any appearance of impropriety in the tax reduction.

Roberto Carlos Alonso (ANFACO-CECOPECA) wanted to know if there were financial reserves, which would be particularly relevant in the case of potential deviations from the budget. Mr Alonso, recalling a previous decision of the Executive Committee to only hold in-person or online meetings, asked the Secretary General about the cost of organising hybrid meetings.

The Secretary General concerning the financial reserve, explained that income came from the membership fees, financial contributions from the Member States, and the Commission's operational grant. In previous operational years, there was always a small amount remaining from the Member States's contributions. Under the previous financial rules, the Commission would request the return of the unspent grant, but, due to the way of calculating the expenditure, a small amount would remain for the Advisory Council. Under the new lump-sum approach, the Commission no longer requests the return of unspent money. Therefore, there was a small financial reserve available, which could be used in case of unforeseen expenses or new activities, but he was not able to provide the exact amount.

Concerning the organisation of hybrid meetings, the Secretary General recalled that, prior to the mentioned decision of the Executive Committee, the costs of in-person, hybrid, and online meetings were calculated, but he was not able to provide the exact calculations at that moment. In principle, hybrid meetings are less expensive than fully in-person meetings, while being more expensive than online meetings. Nevertheless, hybrid meetings require significant expenditure in IT and audiovisual. Additionally, for hybrid meetings, it can be quite challenging to predict the costs in terms of rental of the meeting venue, lunch, and reimbursements, as the exact number of representatives attending in person remains unclear.

Roberto Carlos Alonso (ANFACO-CECOPECA) suggested that, for transparency purposes, each year, to include, in the minutes, the current financial reserve.

The Chair agreed with Mr Alonso concerning the record of the financial reserve. The Chair suggested to hold a discussion, at the next meeting, on the costs of the different types of meeting, so that a new decision could be made on their organisation.



Guus Pastoor (Visfederatie) thanked EBCD for the many years of services provided to the MAC. Mr Pastoor called for some flexibility in the budget, in case of need of adjustments in the role of EBCD providing only the administrative and financial support.

Anne-France Mattlet (Europêche) express support for Mr Pastoor's intervention.

The Chair informed that she had recently met with the Director of EBCD and thanked her for the contribution to the MAC. At the meeting, they had the opportunity to discuss the upcoming services contract, plus a contractual provision to allow revisions for adjustments. This would be discussed in further detail at the next Executive Committee. The Chair suggested the drafting of a letter of thank you on behalf of the General Assembly.

Quentin Marchais (ClientEarth) requested a clarification on the suggested discussion on the organisation of in-person vs hybrid meetings, since there had already been a decision of the Executive Committee to organise either fully in-person or fully online meetings, but not hybrid meetings.

The Chair clarified that Mr Alonso was suggesting reanalysing the mentioned decision. Therefore, at the next meeting, there would be a discussion on the costs.

- **Approval of the work programme and annual budget**

The General Assembly approved the work programme and the annual budget for operational year 8 (1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024).

Work Programme of Year 7 (2022-2023)

- **Update on priorities and deliverables by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General presented an overview of the implementation of the current operational year, adding that he would prepare a final technical report to the European Commission on the implementation of the work programme. The Secretary General summarised the planned recommendations and the ones actually adopted:

1. Work Programme of EUMOFA, including suggestions of analysis topics
 - EUMOFA Study on Aquaculture Outlets (advice on 19 October 2022)
 - EUMOFA Work Programme (request for different studies) (advice on 3 February 2023)
 - EUMOFA Study on Tuna (additional request) (advice on 30 March 2023)
2. Annual report on the implementation in 2022 of the landing obligation
 - Market perspective (advice on 30 March 2023)
3. Russian Invasion of Ukraine
 - Disturbances in the market of fisheries & aquaculture products (advice on 3 February 2023)
4. Legislative Proposal on Revision of Food Information to Consumers Regulation
 - Legislative proposal originally planned for Q4 2022 – postponed
 - Outside of the Work Programme of DG SANTE for 2023 – revision timeline is unknown



5. 2023 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet
 - Timeline, data collection, terms of reference (advice on 3 February 2023)
6. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
 - Harmonised import controls (advice on 21 April 2023)
7. Farm to Fork Strategy
 - Sustainable Food System Framework (advice on 13 December 2022)
8. 2022 Economic Report on the EU Aquaculture Sector
 - Inclusion of indicators of economic sustainability (joint advice with AAC on 24 July 2023)
9. Legislative Proposal on the Revision of the Marketing Standards Framework
 - Incorporation of measurement and communication on environmental and social sustainability in fishery and aquaculture products (advice on 13 December 2022)

The Secretary General concluded that, overall, the MAC has met its objectives in terms of commitments to the European Commission. Besides the abovementioned, other pieces of advice were adopted. At the next Executive Committee, more advice was expected to be approved.

- **Update on the accounts by Dawlat Bik, Finance Officer**

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

The Finance Officer provided an update on the accounts for the period of October 2022 to September 2023. The Finance Officer explained that the expenses cover the staff costs, the participation of members in meetings, the preparation of meetings, the operating costs, the interpretation and translation, and other contracts. He presented the usage per budget lines:

- Staff = 91.7%
- Participation in meetings = 62.96%
- Information & preparation of meetings = 69.93%
- Operating costs = 100.37%
- Interpretation and translation = 65.18%
- Other contracts = 61.81%
- Total expenditures until today = 77.57% which complies to the experience of previous years.

The Finance Officer explained that some additional expenditures were foreseen until the end of September 2023 for the Financial Year 7. It was expected to result in an expenditure of € 343,563.64 compared to a budget of €345,000. In the case of the budget lines for “information & preparation of meetings” and “other contracts”, the expenditure was likely to go over the original amounts due to extraordinary expenditures, including the commissioning of an external scientific study. He further explained that, in any case, there was more income than originally budgeted, so it would be possible to compensate any over expenditure.

Concerning income, the Finance Officer explained that the contributions from the Member States increased from Year 5 (€ 10.000) to Year 7 (€ 31.000). The Member States contributing are Spain,



Germany, Slovenia, Ireland, Croatia, Italy, Finland, Poland and France. As for the contributions from the members (Executive Committee, Working Groups and General Assembly), he mentioned an increase of membership from Year 5 (59 members) to Year 7 (66 members) which resulted in a growth of 7% of the membership income.

Statutes

- **Approval of modifications to the Statutes, in accordance with the Code of Companies and Associations of Belgium**

The Secretary General recalled that, following the introduction of the new Code of Companies and Associations, associations incorporated under the laws of Belgium have to proceed with the conversion of their Statutes before 1 January 2023.

The General Assembly approved the modification of the Statutes, which were prepared by the Executive Committee and circulated ahead of the meeting.

AOB

None.



Attendance List

Representative	Organisation	Role
Adrien Simonet	Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO)	Member
Aodh O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO)	Member
Alexandra Philippe	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Anna Rokicka	Polish Association of Fish Processors (PSPR)	Member
Anne-France Mattlet	Europêche	Member
Bruno Guillaumie	European Mollusc Producers' Association (EMPA)	Member
Christine Absil	Good Fish Foundation	Member
Daniel Voces	Europêche	Member
Dawlat Bik	Market Advisory Council	Secretariat
Delilah Al Khudhairy	European Commission	Expert
Eduardo Míguez López	Puerto de Celeiro	Member
Frangiscos Nikolian	European Commission	Expert
Gaëtane Le Breuil	European Fishmeal	Member
Georg Werner	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)	Member
Guus Pastoor	Visfederatie / EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Member
Jaroslaw Zieliński	Polish Fish Producers Association (PFPA)	Member
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne	Member
Jennifer Reeves	Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Member
John Lynch	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO)	Member
José Basílio Otero	Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores	Member
Juan Manuel Elices López	Spain	Observer
Juan Manuel Trujillo Castillo	ETF	Member
Julien Daudu	Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)	Member
Julien Lamothe	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) / ANOP	Member
Laure Guillevic	WWF	Member



Representative	Organisation	Role
María Luisa Álvarez Blanco	FEDEPESCA	Member
Miguel Lizaso	European Commission	Expert
Patrick Murphy	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation (IS&WFPO)	Member
Pedro Luis Casado López	Asociación de Armadores Punta del Moral (OPP80)	Member
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Pierre Commère	Association Des Entreprises de Produits Alimentaires Élaborés (ADEPALE) / European Federation of National Organizations of Importers and Exporters of Fish (CEP) / Eurothon / EuroCommerce (via proxy)	Member
Quentin Marchais	ClientEarth	Member
Roberto Carlos Alonso	ANFACO-CECOPECA	Member
Sergio López García	OPP Burela	Member
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	Member
Yannis Pelekanakis	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Yobana Bermúdez	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE) / Conxemar	Member

