

## Executive Committee

### Minutes

Thursday, 18 September 2025 (14:00 – 16:45 WEST / 15:00 – 17:45 CEST)

NH Imperial Playa, C. Ferreras, N.º1, 35008 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain / Zoom

Interpretation in EN, ES, FR

Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez

#### [Presentation](#)

Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (06.06.25 & 01.07.25): Adopted

#### Action points

- **State-of-play of the action points of the last meeting - information**
- Work Programme of Year 10 (2025-2026):
  - Secretariat to proceed with the formal submission of the draft work programme and of the draft budget to the European Commission.
    - Formally submitted to the European Commission on 14 July 2025.
- European Oceans Pact:
  - Once available, Executive Committee to consider draft joint letter on the potential establishment of a new Advisory Council for small-scale fisheries
    - Agreement on the joint letter reached on 5 September 2025

#### Membership of General Assembly

- **Endorsement of applications for membership**
  - **Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (API)**

#### [Presentation](#)

Claudio Pedroni (API) explained that the Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (API) was established in 1964. At present, API brings together 330 members and 800 farming units, representing over 90% of Italian aquaculture production. API covers 25 farmed fish species, including trout, seabass, seabream, sturgeon, eel, meagre, cyprinids and catfish, and encompasses both extensive systems, such as lagoons and ponds, and intensive farms inland and offshore. The sector also includes shellfish and algae production. Mr Pedroni



highlighted the diversity of the farming types and environments, many of which are located in protected areas, adding that 80% of the businesses are micro or small enterprises

Mr Pedroni outlined the partnerships and memberships of his organisation, including with Confagricoltura, the Aquaculture Advisory Council, and FEAP. He highlighted the current and future challenges faced by the Italian and European aquaculture sector. These include responding to new needs, such as climate change and welfare, adapting to EU and global strategies, such as the European Green, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy, and the One Health Strategy, keeping pace with an evolving regulatory framework, meeting new market demands, and ensuring both food safety and food security while remaining environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

Mr Pedroni emphasised the role of the organisation, including lobbying activities, promotion of fish farming and farmed fish products, participation in research projects, advancement of the circular economy, ensuring a level playing field, improving social acceptability, and providing assistance and consultancy to fish farmers. He underscored the organisation's principles of traceability, sustainability, food and feed safety, animal welfare, labelling and product certification, and the implementation of international rules and laws. He added that, as the voice of Italian and Mediterranean aquaculture, API could contribute significantly to the objectives of the Advisory Council.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) expresses satisfaction with the application from API. Mr Ojeda drew attention to the limited number of aquaculture representatives participating in the Advisory Council.

*The Executive Committee endorsed Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (API) as a member.*

- **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**

Grace Howe (TNC) explained that the Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global environmental non-profit organisation that operates in seventy countries. Ms Howe emphasised the activities of her organisation to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, improve the assessment and management of fish stocks, and building climate-resilience livelihoods. The work extends across EU Member States and global supply chains, focusing on advancing transparency through technology and enhancing the resilience of fisheries-dependent communities.

Ms Howe underscored that TNC promotes effective data assessment and community-based management. The organisation developed various tools to support these tools. Furthermore, TNC is an active member of the EU IUU Fishing Coalition and contributes to fisheries and ocean governance through policy engagement. Its initiatives aim to promote a zero-tolerance approach to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including by close work with partners to ensure the inclusion of mandatory electronic monitoring in EU fisheries rules.

Ms Howe highlighted that participation in the Advisory Council would offer an opportunity to engage with a broad range of stakeholders across the supply chain and to contribute to EU market policy discussions. She drew attention to the TNC's experience collaborating with retailers and industry representatives, particularly through the Tuna Transparency Pledge, whose members represent around 15% of the global tuna supply chain.



*The Executive Committee endorsed The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as a member.*

- **Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Pescadores de Carboneras (CARBOPECA – OPP66)**

The Secretary General, on behalf of the Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Pescadores de Carboneras (CARBOPECA – OPP66), explained that the organisation is a Producer Organisation of fishers based in Andalusia, Spain. The main areas of activity concern longline fisheries, particularly focusing on swordfish fisheries. The Secretary General informed that that the participation of the organisation had been explicitly endorsed by the Spanish authorities.

*The Executive Committee endorsed Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Pescadores de Carboneras (CARBOPECA – OPP66) as a member.*

The Chair welcomed the three new members to the Advisory Council.

### Working Groups

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

Julien Lamothe (EAPO) informed that, at the meeting of 17 September 2025 of Working Group 1:

- A representative of DG MARE presented an external study on the landing obligation, which would be integrated into the ongoing evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy. The Working Group would continue to follow the issue closely, as the market-related problems were closely linked to the broader implementation challenges of the landing obligation since the entry into force.
- An external consultant presented the section on Producer Organisations of an external study commissioned by DG MARE, which would be part of the evaluation of the Common Market Organisation. Following the publication of the study by the Commission, the Working Group would continue to follow the issue.
- The members considered and reached agreement on the draft advice on “STECF’s Economic Report on the EU Aquaculture Sector (2025)”. Following exchanges on the appropriate terminology to refer to “fishery and aquaculture products”, the Working Group agreed to hold a more comprehensive exchange on the matter at the next meeting.
- To assist in the preparations for the participation of the Chair of the MAC in the Implementation Dialogue with Commissioner Kadis on small-scale coastal fisheries, the Working Group held an exchange of views on the competitiveness in the market of small-scale fisheries.



- A representative of DG MARE delivered an update on the sustainability criteria tool for fishery and aquaculture products. Limited developments took place since the previous meeting.

Mr Lamothe drew attention to concerns expressed by members of the Working Group in relation to the next Multiannual Financial Framework, particularly the potential reduction in availability of funds for the sector.

*The Executive Committee endorsed the advice on “STECF’s Economic Report on the EU Aquaculture Sector (2025)”.*

- **Reporting by Pierre Commère, Chair of Working Group 2**

Pierre Commère (AIPCE) informed that, at the meeting of 18 September 2025 of Working Group 2:

- A representative of DG SANTE provided an update on the import of shrimps and prawns from India. According to the information shared, thanks to reinforced checks and effective monitoring, the situation was under control.
- Representatives of DG MARE provided an update on the latest trade developments. The negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with Indonesia were close to completion. Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with Thailand were still at the core stage of the process. No details were shared on the issue of sensitive products. The representatives also shared information on the agreement reached with the USA, which does not resemble a conventional international trade agreement. Due to the time limitations, a more comprehensive exchange on trade negotiations with Mexico and with Mercosur would take place at the next meeting.
- Representatives of DG AGRI delivered presentations on the Unfair Trading Practices Directive, including of a new legislative proposal to strengthen the system through enhanced cooperation between Member States. The 2019 Directive progressively entered into force across Member States. Implementation has been in place since 2022.
- The members considered draft advice on the upcoming “EU Strategy for External Fisheries Action”, focusing particularly the draft recommendations. The Working Group would be considering the draft advice again via a written procedure.

- **Reporting by Benoît Thomassen, Chair of Working Group 3**

Benoît Thomassen (FEAP) informed that, at the meeting of 17 September 2025 of Working Group 3:

- An external consultant presented the section on consumer information of an external study commissioned by DG MARE, which would be part of the evaluation of the Common Market



Organisation. As the Working adopted advice on the matter several times before, no new action was foreseen to follow up on the study.

- A representative of DG SANTE presented a recently adopted Commission Delegated Regulation for fishery products frozen in brine on board vessels, particularly focusing on the freezing of tuna at temperatures below -18°C.
- An external consultant presented a study commissioned by the European Parliament on the labelling of plant-based imitations of fishery and aquaculture products. As a way forward, the Working Group agreed to encourage the Executive Committee to proceed with a letter to DG MARE requesting information on the state-of-play.
- A representative of FEAP presented a lifecycle assessment study of fish boxes in cold chain logistics, in the context of the reuse targets of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation.

The Secretary General drew attention to an email message from UMF about the European Commission's Expert Group on Waste. At a presentation of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation to Working Group 3, a representative of DG ENV encouraged the members of the MAC to join the Expert Group. According to UMF, AIPCE applied to the Expert Group, but no response was received. The Secretary General suggested to proceed with an email message to DG ENV.

### External Representation

- **Reporting back on the following meetings:**
  - **Workshop on Energy Transition Partnership (Online, 14 July 2025)**

The Secretary General recalled that the workshop took place on 14 July 2025. The focus of the workshop was on the mid-term recommendations of the Energy Transition Partnership and on the recommendations of the Advisory Councils. At the meeting, he made an intervention, based on the advice of 29 April 2024, highlighting the concerns with the impacts of the initiative on the supply to the market, the need to consider the entire fisheries and aquaculture supply chain, the potential effects on prices, and the need to improve the business environment. The meeting documents were previously circulated to all members.

- **FAO's Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (Online, 8-12 September 2025)**

The Secretary General recalled that, based on the work of Working Group 2, the MAC adopted advice to assist the European Commission in the preparation of the EU mandate to the session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. The MAC also asked to be part of the EU delegation to the session, as was done at the previous session of the Committee on Fisheries. DG MARE welcomed the advice but did not accept the request to be part of the delegation. Therefore, the Secretary General registered directly as an observer to the session. He



further recalled that, prior to the Executive Committee meeting, the draft report of the session was circulated to the members for information.

The Secretary General provided a summary of the interventions by the Commission representatives at the session. Under the agenda item “Global Trends in Fisheries and Aquaculture”, the Commission highlighted the importance of strengthening fisheries and aquaculture to meet a growing demand, the growing importance of aquaculture production, and the challenges faced by this sector. Under the item “Sustainable Value Chains for Competitive Markets”, the Commission highlighted various EU initiatives, including the Common Fisheries Policy, the 2040 Vision for Fisheries, the European Oceans Pact, the strategic guidelines for aquaculture, the Restore our Ocean and Waters mission, and the EU aquaculture campaign.

Under the “Transparency and Legal Provenance for Sustainable and Competitive Value Chains” item, the Commission highlighted the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation, including amendments to the catch certificate, and the introduction of the CATCH IT system. Under the item “Implementation of Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries: Features and Challenges from the Perspective of Members”, the Commission welcomed the efforts for dialogue and expressed the commitment of the EU, including through the FISH4ACP project. Under the “The FAO Blue Ports Initiative: Advancing Sustainable Fisheries, Trade, and Coastal Development for More Competitive Products” item, the Commission highlighted the financial contributions by the Spanish authorities as well as the organisation of an international seminar in Vigo at the end of 2026. Under the “FAO Guidance on Social Responsibility in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains” item, the Commission encouraged the FAO to proceed with the next sections of the guidance, including through the undertaking of expert consultations.

The Secretary General encouraged the members to read the report of the session and to consult the related presentations, including of the Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser online tool.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) expressed satisfaction that the MAC was represented at the session. Mr Ojeda commented that, despite the important message of the EU aquaculture campaign, the impact would likely be limited by the small budget available.

The Secretary General informed that, at the next meeting of Working Group 3, DG MARE would provide an update on the implementation of the campaign. An update at the 17 September 2025 meeting had not been possible, because DG MARE was still collecting information on the implementation by the Member States. According to information shared by DG MARE representatives, the campaign had been extended following the provision of additional budget.

- **Preparation for upcoming meetings:**
  - **Implementation Dialogue on small-scale fisheries with Commissioner Costas Kadis (Brussels, 24 November 2025)**

The Secretary General recalled that, on 24 November 2025, in Brussels, Commissioner Kadis would hold an Implementation Dialogue on small-scale fisheries. The MAC, represented by the Chair, would be one of the four Advisory Councils participating. He highlighted that the purpose of the Implementation Dialogues was



to seek feedback from stakeholders to strengthen and boost European competitiveness, facilitate the implementation of EU policies, and the simplification of EU rules and spending programs.

The Secretary General also recalled that Working Group 1 held an exchange on the competitiveness of the small-scale fisheries in the EU market, including on the administrative burden faced by operators, the need for simplification, commercialisation challenges, prices, the role of Producer Organisations, consumer information and awareness, and integration into global value chains.

Julien Lamothe (EAPO) suggested to proceed with a written consultation to formalise the mandate of the Chair. Mr Lamothe recalled that the MAC representative would have a limited time to intervene.

### Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products

- **Presentation on competitiveness, including simplification and reduction of administrative burden, by Attila Schönbaum (MARE A4)**

#### Presentation

Attila Schönbaum (DG MARE) emphasised that simplification and reduction of reporting burden are among the top priorities of the European Commission over the next five years. The operational collective target of reducing administrative costs until the end of the mandate is set for at least 25% for all businesses or EUR 37.5 billion, and, at least, 35% for SMEs, in line with the communication on “Communication on implementation and simplification”.

Mr Schönbaum explained that, to achieve these targets, several tools would be deployed, including new forms of stakeholder consultation, namely high-level implementation dialogues with stakeholders and “reality checks (direct outreach to stakeholders on the ground), goals to reduce burden, gradual stress-testing (screening of the EU acquis to make proposals to simplify), and a closer partnership between EU institutions and Member States. The Commission representative provided details on the roadmap of DG MARE for the period of the 2025-2029, which outlines and describes the stress testing of all DG MARE legislation, the systematic evaluations of DG MARE legislation, the implementation dialogues, and the reality checks with stakeholders on the ground. The systematic evaluations would be assessing legislation based on effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value, and relevance, with a particular focus on opportunities to simplify and reduce administrative burden.

Mr Schönbaum highlighted that the gradual stress-testing of the EU acquis would be consist of a continuous process to screen DG MARE acquis with the help of specific analyses, for instance, legal analysis to map the acquis and identify inconsistencies, contradictions, and instances of insufficient clarity and of potential consolidation or simplification, and economic analysis to identify the main impacts of legal provisions, consider the health of the affected sectors, and quantify the potential impact of simplification. The testing would be complementary to the existing better regulation tools, such as evaluations or various forms of stakeholder consultations. DG MARE mapped out the acquis according to the main policy areas and (sub)



topics to establish an order of priority for the screening exercise. The primary focus would be the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation.

Mr Schönbaum informed that the Fisheries Control Regulation was identified as a relevant source of regulatory costs within the fisheries policy, as relevant parts of the reporting obligations directly concerning business operators stem from this regulation. DG MARE started preparing a study to identify and analyse the costs and benefits of the implementation of the Control Regulation with special regard to the new measures that gradually enter into force as a consequence of the 2023 revision. The Commission representative underscored that moving the reporting from paper to electronic transmission represented a major improvement towards simplification and reduction of administrative burden. DG MARE would also be developing a specific cost analysis study of the fisheries sector from a business operators' perspective that should identify and map the costs of fisheries-related stakeholder groups (e.g., fishers, aquaculture producers, processors) in relation to their daily business activities. This analysis would also aim to investigate the sources of these costs – what legislation frames/ affects the stakeholders' daily work and to what extent. Both studies were expected to be launched in the following months.

Mr Schönbaum explained that the Implementation Dialogues would consist of a high-level consultation form chaired by the relevant Commissioner. The aim would be to take stock of progress towards set objectives, identify possible obstacles to the proper implementation by seeking concrete feedback from stakeholders, collect ideas on measures to facilitate implementation, and solutions to overcome identified obstacles as well as possible simplification measures. Each Commissioner should organise at least two dialogues per year. The Commission representative informed that the first Implementation Dialogue of Commissioner Kadis focused on the Marine Spatial Planning, which took place on 1 July 2025, in Brussels. The dialogue gathered 26 participants representing a broad and diverse group, including Member States (both national and autonomous regions), regional organisations, environmental NGOs, as well as industry, fishers and ports associations. The preparation for the second implementation dialogue had started. No decision had yet been made on the following dialogues for 2026.

Mr Schönbaum further explained that the so-called “reality checks” would be a new consultation tool aiming to directly outreach to stakeholders on the ground (i.e., practitioners, usually individual businesses) to collect detailed technical feedback on the implementation of EU rules and programmes, including on measures to simplify them and facilitate their implementation. Over the next 12-18 months, DG MARE would carry a series (10-12 or more) of reality checks in a workshop format. These would be developed and implemented with the help of an external consultancy together with the two studies. The results were expected by the end of 2026 or later. The program of the workshop would be standardised. The contractor would assist in the animation of the workshops, the drafting of a summary report for each workshop, and the preparation of a synthesis report of all reality checks. The plan would be to identify the participants (around 15 per workshop) through a targeted survey consultation as part of the cost analysis study and the



network of the Advisory Councils. The workshops are to be organised according to EU languages or groups of languages rather than according to topics.

Mr Schönbaum encouraged the MAC to clearly communicate the rules of most concern due to being burdensome, to inform on redundant rules, implementation issues, and problems with the proper application of the rules at EU or at national/regional level. The Commission representative highlighted that, besides feedback at the MAC's level, feedback from individual members would also be welcomed. He encouraged the members to underpin information, evidence, and cost implications, to allow DG MARE to come up with concrete simplification and administrative burden reduction proposals.

- **Exchange of views**

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) underscored the importance of administrative simplification, particularly for micro enterprises. Ms Álvarez exemplified that companies with only two employees still needed to comply with a very large number of rules, significantly impacting the workers. She encouraged the Commission to differentiate between larger and smaller companies, since the capacity to comply with rules would be very different. Therefore, it would be important to develop measures to make their operations easier and more competitive. She volunteered to provide a list of concrete measures.

Javier Ojeda (FEAP) welcomed the simplification strategy and corresponding objectives. Mr Ojeda requested information on what would happen if, even after the reality checks, the targets were not met. In his view, without binding targets for the Member States, policies tended to fail. He emphasised that, in the case of aquaculture producers, the main challenges and causes of administrative burden related to the very stringent EU environmental rules. In his view, national authorities seemed to prefer not to have aquaculture production to avoid dealing with the mentioned rules.

Attila Schönbaum (DG MARE) recalled the specific targets for SMEs, which covered microenterprises. Mr Schönbaum encouraged the members to share their ideas for simplification. On aquaculture policy, he drew attention to the limited scope of action by DG MARE, since environmental policy falls under the responsibility of DG ENV. He expressed availability to exchange with DG ENV on specific suggestions.

Julien Lamothe (EAPO) expressed concern about the methodology of the Implementation Dialogues, since problems were not limited to small-scale operators. In his view, DG MARE should consider the broader picture. Mr Lamothe expressed scepticism concerning potential simplification through the Fisheries Control Regulation. Following the latest revision, regulatory requirements had increased, meaning more burden on enterprises. Therefore, there was a mismatch between the simplification efforts and reality.

Julien Daudu (EJF) shared Mr Lamothe's concerns on the methodology, as the new consultation tools could lead to further burden. Mr Daudu asked for more details on how the Commission would articulate the simplification efforts with safeguarding the EU's high standards on sustainability. He wanted to know whether the work by the consultants would be made publicly available and the corresponding timelines.



Thibault Pivetta (EMPA) highlighted that more than 95% of the EU shellfish farming was composed of microenterprises, representing an important part of the EU production. Mr Pivetta expressed agreement with the views of Mr Ojeda, particularly on the need of alignment between DG MARE and DG ENV. In his view, without binding measures, clear targets, and allocated resources, the simplification efforts risked remaining largely aspirational.

Attila Schönbaum (DG MARE) underscored that the new tools aimed for a closer dialogue and cooperation with stakeholders, allowing them to exchange directly with Commissioners. In his view, the Implementation Dialogue on marine spatial planning had been a very useful exercise for both sides. The reality checks would facilitate direct dialogue with business operators, including microenterprises.

Mr Schönbaum emphasised that the study on the Fisheries Control Regulation would analyse the costs related to the new provisions. In the view of DG MARE, there should be a reduction of the costs due to digitalisation. The other study would look at the costs faced by operators in their daily activities, mapping the source of the costs, including legislative sources. For the reality checks, the participants would be identified with the assistant of the external consultants and of the Advisory Councils.

Vanya Vulperhorst (Oceana) asked for more information on the process that led to the identification of the Fisheries Control Regulation. Ms Vulperhorst recalled that the Regulation had recently been reviewed and that the implementation of the new provisions had not even started. She highlighted that operators would have to undertake investments at the beginning, but that, with time, the investments would scale up.

Ms Vulperhorst requested more information on the timescale of the assessments. She also wanted to know whether the studies would consider the benefits of the legislation, including for improving compliance, avoiding infringements, and ensuring a level-playing-field in the EU. She also asked about the next steps of the simplification exercises.

Julien Daudu (EJF) asked again about the articulation between the simplification efforts and the EU's high standards on sustainability. Mr Daudu recalled that, under the European Oceans Pact, the Commission emphasised the importance of maintaining high standards in the EU. Therefore, he wanted to know what other elements would be considered besides the administrative burden.

María Luisa Álvarez Blanco (FEDEPESCA) offered to share a study undertaken by her organisation.

Attila Schönbaum (DG MARE) welcomed the submission of all documents on administrative burden. Mr Schönbaum emphasised that the European Commission was not aiming for downgrading EU standards. The aim was to make compliance less costly, through simpler rulers, while reaching the same objectives. Concerning the identification of the Fisheries Control Regulation as a relevant source of requirements, he explained that the requirements were continuously criticised and placed direct obligations on operators. DG MARE wanted to know the costs and the benefits of the recent revision.



Vanya Vulperhorst (Oceana) asked about the timeframe of the studies on the Fisheries Control Regulation.

Attila Schönbaum (DG MARE) responded that the starting point of the study would be the adoption of the revision in December 2023. The study would analyse the costs of the transition period and the costs attributed to the rules once fully implemented.

- **Way forward**

The Secretary General recalled that the topic of simplification would be one of the priorities under the work programme of the next operational year. The Secretariat would circulate a questionnaire to the Working Groups to launch the work.

### Meetings

- **Update on the planning for the 4 & 5 February 2026 meetings in Ostend and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event (10 June 2026) in Brussels by Pedro Reis Santos, Secretary General**

The Secretary General recalled that, for the meetings of 4 and 5 February 2026, VVV offered their facilities in Ostend. The aim would be to hold a visit, in the morning of the first day, to the local fish auction. There could also potentially be visits to a processing facility to an aquaculture platform for shrimps. A networking dinner at Deschildere Streekproducten was also being considered.

The Secretary General informed that agreement was reached between the MAC and AAC Secretariats to hold the joint 10 anniversary event on 10 June 2026 in Brussels at the Palais des Académies. According to the preliminary programme, there would be a keynote speech focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the initiatives of the Food and Agriculture Organisation as well as addresses by the European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans and by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environment of Cyprus. Additionally, there would be a first roundtable focused on the evolution and achievements of both Advisory Councils, including former Chairs, a DG MARE representative, and a Member State representative, and a second roundtable focused on the future of EU aquaculture production and of the EU market, with the participation of a member of the PECH Committee, a DG MARE representative, a market expert, and an aquaculture expert.

- **Exchange of views**

The Chair welcomed the developments, particularly the possibility to visit local facilities, as offered by VVV.

Vanya Vulperhorst (Oceana) requested information on how long the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event would last.

The Secretary General responded that the planning was to hold the even in the afternoon. To facilitate the attendance by the members of both Advisory Councils, the AAC would hold meetings of their Working Groups in the days before, while the MAC would hold meetings in the days after.



Thibault Pivetta (EMPA) welcomed the joint organisation of the anniversary event by the MAC and the AAC. Mr Pivetta requested more information on the next steps and timelines, including for the identification of the relevant speakers.

The Secretary General responded that, to facilitate the organisation of the event, the implementation was being done directly by the Secretariats of both Advisory Councils. Nevertheless, if the Executive Committee believe that it was relevant, an organisational committee could be established to assist.

Thibault Pivetta (EMPA) expressed confidence that coordination between the two Secretariats would be sufficient. Mr Pivetta expressed availability to share suggestions for speakers.

## AOB

- **Request from the Mission of Ecuador to the European Union for a meeting**

The Secretary General informed that, the day before, he received an email message from the Mission of Ecuador to the European Union expressing interest from Ambassador Xavier Aliaga, Head of Mission, in holding a meeting to exchange information on sustainable fishing, the current EU fisheries policies, and the “yellow card” issued by the EU. He expressed availability to attend but encouraged the members to share their views on the relevance of accepting the invitation and potential messages to transmit.

Guus Pastoor (AIPCE) responded that the appropriate approach would be to accept the invitation. Mr Pastoor argued that the Ecuadorian authorities were aware of the necessary steps to address the “yellow card”, so there was no specific message to be transmitted. Following the meeting, the MAC could discuss potential actions.



### Summary of action items

- Working Groups:
  - Draft letter on the state-of-play on labelling and consumer information concerning plant-based imitations of fishery and aquaculture products to be considered via written procedure.
  
- Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products:
  - Questionnaire on simplification to be circulated to the Working Groups, to initiative the preparation of advice on the matter.
  
- AOB:
  - Secretary General to accept the invitation for a meeting with the Head of the Mission of Ecuador to the European Union.



## Attendance List

Representative	Organisation	Role
Alen Lovrinov	Producer Organisation Omega 3	Observer
Alessandro Manghisi	Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)	Observer
Anna Rokicka	Polish Association of Fish Processors (PSPR)	Observer
Aodh O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation	Observer
Attila Schönbaum	European Commission	Expert
Benoît Thomassen	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Camille Maisonneuve	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Christine Absil	Good Fish Foundation	Member
Claudio Pedroni	Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (API)	Observer
Daniel Voces	Europêche	Member
Dominic Rihan	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Member
Fabian Schäfer	Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V.	Observer
Fabijan-Hrvatin Peronja	OP Friska Riba	Observer
Felicidad Fernández	ANFACO-CECOPESCA	Member
Gaëtane Le Breuil	European Fishmeal	Member
Gerd Heinen	European Commission	Expert
Grace Howe	The Nature Conservancy	Observer
Guus Pastoor	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Member
Janne Posti	Conxemar	Member
Javier Ojeda	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	Member
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne	Member
Joanna Żurawska-Łagoda	Poland	Observer
Joaquin Garrido	European Molluscs' Producers Association (EMPA)	Member
John Lynch	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO)	Observer
Juan Manuel Trujillo Castillo	ETF	Member



Representative	Organisation	Role
Jules Danto	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Julian Lamothe	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)	Member
Justyna Radzewicz	Poland	Observer
Laure Guillevic	WWF	Member
Linda Zanki Duvnjak	OP Friska Riba	Observer
María Luisa Álvarez Blanco	FEDEPESCA	Member
Marine Cusa	Oceana	Member
Pedro Reis Santos	Market Advisory Council (MAC)	Secretariat
Pierre Commère	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Member
Rafael Piñero	EuroCommerce	Member
Thibault Pivetta	European Molluscs' Producers Association (EMPA)	Member
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	Member
Yobana Bermúdez	EU Fish Processors and Traders Association (AIPCE)	Chair

