

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Extraordinary General Assembly meeting

Draft Minutes

Brussels, 5th February (9:45-10:15)

Attendants: **Javier Ojeda** (Chair), **Addy Risseuw** (Vice-Chair – Treasurer), **Andrea Fabris** (API), **Phil Brooke** (CIWF), **Ole Christensen** (FEFAC), **Brian Curran** (Coastwatch Europe), **Nancy de Briyne** (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe), **Paul Denekamp** (Stichting Vissenbescherming), **Sarah Horsfall** (Shellfish Association of Great Britain), **Lisbeth Jess Plesner** (Danish Aquaculture Association), **Philippe Le Gal** (CRC Bretagne Sud), **Angeles Longa Portabales** (Consello Regulador do Mexillón De Galicia), **Loïc Maine** (GMB), **Giuseppe Prioli** (AMA), **Kathryn Stack** (FEAP), **Teresa Morrissey** (Irish Farmers' Association), **Pier Antonio Salvador** (COPA), **Bernhard Feneis** (Cogeca), **Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA), **Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet** (CNC), **Thierry Helie** (CRC Normandie), **Ola Öberg** (Recirkfisk), **Erik Bjorn Olsen** (Danish Society for a living sea), **Søren Anker Pedersen** (EUfishmeal), **Ioannis Pelekanakis** (Federation of Greek Maricultures), **Ana Peroš** (Croatian Aquaculture Association), **Pierpaolo Piva** (FAI CISL), **Jean-Christophe Raymond** (CNPMEM), **Danilo Santini** (FAI CISL), **Douglas Waley** (Eurogoup for Animals), **Anna Pyć** (Polish Trout Breeders Association), **Herbie Dennis** (BIM), **Marine Levadoux** (CIPA), **Jan Kappel** (EAA), **Leo Kirchmaier** (ÖFVA), **Mélanie Haslauer** (ÖFVA), **Tommaso Petochi** (ISPRA), **Cécile Fouquet** (AAC secretariat), **Charlotte Musquar** (AAC Secretariat), **Ewan Geffroy** (DG MARE trainee)

Abbreviations: **FG** (Focus Group), **WG** (Working Groups), **MS** (Member States), **WP** (Work Programme)

1. Welcome words by the Chair, adoption of the agenda and the minutes (09:45-09:50)

The Chair welcomed the participants and expressed his wish for having a constructive and fruitful meeting.

The agenda is adopted with no further change.

The minutes are adopted with no further change.

2. Approval of AAC accounts for 2018-2019 (09:50-10:05)

- Presentation of final accounting report by the secretariat

The secretariat presented the 2018-2019 accounts

Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA) asked if a budget could be dedicated to interpretation for WG1. **The Chair** confirmed that it is feasible if the budget is indeed sufficient.



Thierry Hélié (CRC Normandie) suggested that the previous period and the detail of the resources are also included in the document in order to be able to compare easily.

He also requested more information about the important amount of 90.400 EUR on the account 492/3 (comptes de régularisation). **The secretariat** will provide a detailed explanation of the content of this account in writing, corresponding to expenses that were invoiced in 2017-2018 but that corresponded to 2018-2019.

Nancy de Briyne (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe) asked for clarification about the mentioned possible decreased subsidy from the European Commission. **The secretariat** recalled that the AAC is reaching the end of its three-year grant agreement and that the grant from the Commission will have to be renewed. **The Chair** mentioned that the proposal of the Commission is to adapt the level of the subsidy to the current level of expenses, not inevitably reduce the budget. However, the AAC members will be kept informed.

No further remark from **the Treasurer**, who congratulated the secretariat on its management of the AAC accounts and day-to-day work.

The accounts are approved and the members signed the minutes to be sent to the Belgian administration.

3. Agreement on the affiliation of Women in the Seafood Industry in one of the categories of AAC members (10:05-10:15)

- Agreement or vote

Before the undertaking any decision, **the Chair** informed that **the secretariat** had checked that the quorum requirements are fulfilled for this GA meeting and for the adoption of this decision. There are 33 members present and 10 proxy votes.

The issue of the "categorisation" of WSI has been debated in the AAC for some time. The objective of this agenda point is to allocate the **International Association for Women in the Seafood Industry (WSI)** into one of the two stakeholder categories: the "Sector organisations" or "Other interest groups".

The Chair reminded that for this decision:

- 1st we fulfil what is described in the Regulation & Delegated Acts and our own Statutes, and
- 2nd we must try to make **WSI** comfortable with its positioning.

After several exchanges of views and discussions, the members had not been able to reach a consensual solution during the GA meeting on September 10th 2019.

The ExCom met on October 10th but reached no consensual agreement either. A vote took place and the result was to propose to this General Assembly to

allocate **WSI** into the AAC category of the "Other interest groups".

The Chair asked if there was today a consensus agreement on this issue, although he already had received some negative feedback.

Some members expressed their disagreement. Therefore, **the Chair** proposed to vote on this topic, but under certain conditions:

- All members will accept the outcome of this voting process.
- The allocation of **WSI** into whatever stakeholder category that is decided today will be reconsidered in a year time.
- During this year, a taskforce will work on better defining our stakeholder categories and establish decision indicators.
- After that year we will reopen the debate, but with three clear advantages over this moment:
 1. We will have better decision-making tools thanks to the improved definitions and indicators.
 2. We will all have a better perspective on the interests of **WSI**.
 3. And also relevant, **WSI** will have a better understanding of the nature of both stakeholder groups and in which it will feel more comfortable.

The Chair mentioned that, in his view, this solution, although temporary, will give us a better chance of taking the most correct decision. He asked if anybody had questions or comments on this procedure and no question was raised. He then requested the approval of this procedure and the members unanimously agreed with it.

Each member of the AAC has been supplied with an envelope containing voting cards in case of a secret vote. Any member holding a proxy has received a second set of voting cards.

A vote took place by raise of hands on the following questions:

- Do you agree on accepting WSI into the AAC?

In favour: 42
Against: 0
Abstention: 0

- Do you agree on allocating WSI into the "Sector organisations" category?

In favour: 6
Against: 31
Abstention: 3

- Do you agree on allocating WSI into the "Other interest groups" category?

In favour: 32
Against: 6
Abstention: 2

The AAC General Assembly has decided that WSI will belong for one year to the "Other interest" stakeholder group.



The Chair thanked the members and called for volunteers for the **Allocation task force**. The **Chair** will be available for consultation but will not participate in the taskforce.

The volunteers for the task force are:

- **Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescheming)**
- **Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA)**
- **Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK)**
- **Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)**
- **Douglas Waley (Eurogroup For Animals)**

During the voting process the representative of a member organisation took photographs of other representatives. There was a complaint against this action and the person that took the photographs agreed not to use them. The Chair mentioned that general pictures of the meeting should not be a problem, but photographs on critical moments, like a voting moment, should not be taken. A disclaimer for taking photographs in the AAC meetings will be proposed by the secretariat.

4. Date and place of the forthcoming meeting

08th September 2020, Brussels