



## Executive Committee

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 09:30-13:00

**Venue:** Business Europe - *Avenue de Cortenbergh*, 168 (Room Europe)

**Attendants:** **Marc-Philip Buckhout** (Vice-Chair, Chairing the meeting), **Marco Gilmozzi** (Vice-Chair), **Cécile Fouquet** (Secretariat), **Farid Safi** (Secretariat), **Phil Brooke** (CIWF), **Paul Denekamp** (Stichting Vissenbescherming), **Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA), **Courtney Hough** (FEAP), **Erik Bjørn Olsen** (Danish Society for a Living Sea), **Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet** (CNC) **Giuseppe Prioli** (Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori), **Andrea Ripol** (Seas at Risk), **Pier Antonio Salvador** (COPA), **Margreet van Vilsteren** (Good fish Foundation), **Pascale Colson** (DG MARE)

**Excused:** **Bruna Campos** (BirdLife), **Angeles Longa Portabales** (CRMG), **Carlos Ruiz** (AIPCE), **Jamie Smith** (Scottish Salmon Producers), **Katie Miller** (Client Earth), **Addy Risseeuw** (PO Mosselcultuur), **Wouter van Zandbrink** (CEP)

**Delegation of votes:** **Bruna Campos** (BirdLife) to **Andrea Ripol** (Seas at Risk), **Addy Risseeuw** (PO Mosselcultuur) to **Giuseppe Prioli** (Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori)

**Abbreviations:** **AC** (Advisory Council), **GA** (General Assembly), **MAC** (Market Advisory Council), **MS** (Member State), **WFD** (Water Framework Directive),

### 1. Welcome by the Chair

The **Chair** thanked all the participants for their active participation to the AAC work on the occasion of the last AAC meeting of the year.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous ExCom meeting (August 30<sup>th</sup>).

**The Chair** proposed to push back the point "Revision of Statutes and Rules of Procedure" behind the point "Progress Budget 2017-2018" while **Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)** proposed to add under the point "meetings and feedbacks" a feedback on the WFD Fitness check event of October 10 and a point on the cooperation between the AAC and the MAC under AOB.

The agenda was adopted with all these changes and the minutes of the last Excom of August 30 were approved.

### 3. AAC Chair's situation

**The Chair** informed ExCom about the names of the two candidates put forward so far for the position of AAC Chair: **Javier Ojeda** (Apromar) and **Douglas McLeod** (British Trout Association).

**Bruno Guillaumie** pointed out that electing a new Chair in March would create a time lag between his mandate and the the Excom Members' mandate.

**The Chair** replied that the Chair that will be put forward in March will have to be reconfirmed as Chair at the GA of September 2019 along with the other positions to have a temporally aligned



cycle with the other positions. He also reminded that the Commission has requested that the AAC comes up with a candidate as soon as possible.

Referring to the candidacy of Douglas McLeod in the context of the Brexit, **Pascale Colson (DG MARE)** informed that due to Brexit, the North Sea Advisory Council, that is based in Scotland, will be obliged to move into the EU to get the grant. By analogy, selecting a non-EU Chair might also prevent the AAC from getting the EC grant.

#### 4. Meetings and feedbacks

- *Copernicus Event – 2 October 2018*

The AAC Executive Secretary gave a presentation during that event dedicated to data collection. **Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat), Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)** and **the Chair** attended the meeting.

- *Inter AC meeting – 16 October 2018*

**The Chair** said that all ACs met with the European Commission. Fisheries was the main focus on the agenda. One of the only news that came out from this meeting on the Commission plans for the EU aquaculture was the huge research budget planned for the next years under the “Horizon Europe programme. He suggested that this topic be part of the work Programme and discussed by the Management Committee. The consultation on Fisheries and Aquaculture research for 2021-2027 will take place during the second half of 2019.

- *EFSI Steering Board – 18 October 2018*

**The Chair** and **Courtney Hough (FEAP)** will attend the meeting.

- *MAC meeting (labelling of caviar and level-playing field) – 17-18 October 2018*

**Pier Antonio Salvador** and **Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat)** will attend.

- *Seminar on the impact of Brexit on the operation of the ACs – 4 December 2018*

**Javier Ojeda (APROMAR)** and **Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat)** shall attend on behalf of the AAC.

- *ICES Meeting – 17-18 January 2019*

**Cécile Fouquet** said that this event would take place in Copenhagen. If aquaculture is part of the agenda, the AAC will attend to provide some input.

**The Chair** said the management committee shall decide who will represent the AAC at this meeting and agreed with **Margreet van Vilsteren**'s idea of having a representative of the 60% and another of the 40% groups.

Members requested that the Secretariat tries to get invited to STECEF meetings, as they work more on aquaculture than ICES.

- *WFD Fitness Check event – 10 October*



**Bruno Guillaumie** attended this event as well as other AAC Members. The ongoing public consultation was supposed to close by the end of November but will be actually closed in March 2019.

The Secretariat will send Bruno Guillaumie all contributions she will have received from the Members on this consultation. Bruno Guillaumie will synthesize the contributions, discuss with Marc-Philip Buckhout and send it to the Excom for approval, and then the Secretariat will deliver the contribution on behalf of the AAC before March 2019.

## 5. Management Committee

**The Chair** reminded that the GA agreed on the following composition of the Management Committee: the Chair, the 2 Vice-Chairs, the treasurer, the 3 WG Chairs and the Secretariat.

## 6. Working group related topics:

- Working Group 1, Fish – update on state of play
- Working Group 2, Shellfish – update on state of play
- Working Group 3, Horizontal – update on state of play

WG Chairs and Vice-Chairs updated the Excom Members on the state of play of their work.

## 7. Progress Budget 2017-2018

**Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat)** gave an update on the Budget for 2017-2018 and informed about a new financial contribution received from Italy. As this contribution arrived less than one month before the end of the financial year, **Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat)** said she asked Italy whether it would agree dedicating this contribution to next year's budget as the accounts were about to be closed and Italy agreed.

**Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)** considered useful to evaluate the number of meetings could organize according to budget resources, based on the average ratio of participants in WG meetings. **The Secretariat will work on that issue for next Excom.**

## 8. Former Accountant

**The Chair** explained that the former accountant didn't register AAC annual accounts to the administration while the new accountant didn't invoice the time he spent on doing it. So far, the Belgian Authorities didn't impose any penalty on the AAC. The Secretariat will monitor the situation.



## 9. Revision of Statutes and Rules of Procedure

- *Update on the legal advice requested by the GA concerning the legal responsibility for the AAC and the 60/40% weighting of votes*

**Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat)** summarized the legal advice requested by the GA concerning the legal responsibility for the AAC and the 60/40% weighting of votes. Whoever the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the AAC are, the responsibility lies on the whole Excom (collegial responsibility). As for the 60/40% weighting of votes, the legal advice proposes to clearly define both groups in the Statutes and to be clearer on the type of majority needed (simple, qualified).

**Pascale Colson (DG MARE)** said that the Commission's policy is to include all stakeholders and is thus flexible on the 60/40% repartition at the GA.

**The Secretariat** will send a summary of the points raised on the issue of the 60/40% during the meeting. In light with the legal advice received, ExCom Members will have 15 days so send their comments. A decision will then have to be approved by the ExCom, on the basis of a proposal that will be submitted by the Vice-Chairs.

Knowing that the legal responsibility of the AAC lies on the entire Excom, **the Chair** considered that it didn't make a lot of sense to change the Statutes.

He reminded that 2 NGOs wouldn't renew their membership to Excom in 2018-2019 (Client Earth and Coast Watch Europe) and that these 2 empty seats were opened to NGO candidates within the AAC.

- *Update on AAC membership procedure (clarification) and membership of IPIFF*

**The Chair** suggested to proceed with IPIFF candidacy in order for it to join the AAC during the extraordinary GA meeting on January 31, since the organisation sent over its members' list as requested.

As for the clarification of the AAC membership procedure, **Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat)** gave an update on the situation of Greek NGO Archipelagos, which used to be a member of the AAC.

- *Discussion on the way to proceed for the revision of the Statutes and the rules of Procedure*

**Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)** proposed the creation of a focus group of 5 legal experts (3 from industry members and 2 from NGOs) assigned the task to submit proposals to the Excom to revise the Rules of procedure upon requests from members.

**The Secretariat shall identify areas that need clarification to come up with suggestions to be discussed by this legal focus group.**



## 10. Member States' financial contributions requests

A sample letter to request the financial contribution of MS was presented to members.

Some members suggested some changes:

**Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA): At the bottom, insert the names and signatures of both Vice-Chairs.

**Courtney Hough** (FEAP) proposed the following sentence: “*All members recognize and thank the contribution of MS...*”.

## 11. Calendar of meetings for 2019

The following meeting dates and locations for 2019 were approved :

### Working Group meetings (Paris)

30-31 January

05-06 June

15-16 October

### Executive Committee meetings (Brussels)

27 March

10 July

31 October

### General Assembly meeting (Brussels)

10 September

WG3 meetings will take place between WG2 and WG1.

## 12. Date and place of forthcoming meetings

The next Excom meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2019 in Brussels.

## 13. Any other business

- *Cooperation of the AAC with the MAC*

**Courtney Hough** (FEAP) considered on the one side important to stimulate AAC members to apply for MAC membership as there are only a few organisations that are members of both ACs. On the other side, he regretted that the MAC focuses on fisheries and leaves little room to aquaculture.



**Pascale Colson** (DG MARE) said that if both ACs have common topics, they can deliver common opinions.

The **Chair** suggested that either the Secretariat or Vice-Chairs attend MAC meetings to stress the importance of aquaculture, and proposed to meet MAC's Chair to present AAC members' points. He also took note of **Courtney Hough's** idea to deal with some marketing issues in the AAC.

[13:00h End of the meeting]

DRAFT