



General Assembly

Date: 13th September 2018, 10:00-17:00

Venue: Marivaux Hotel, Boulevard Adolphe Max 98, 1000 Brussels

Attendants: **Denise Ritter** (Akademie für Tierschutz), **Stephen Alleaume** (CRC Bretagne Nord), **Niels Alsted** (FEFAC), **Phil Brooke** (CIWF), **Marc-Philip Buckhout** (Vice-Chair – Chairing the GA), **Bruna Campos** (BirdLife), **Pascale Colson** (European Commission), **Brian Curran** (Coastwatch Europe), **Nancy de Briyne** (FVE), **Maurice de Saint-Denis** (GMB), **Paul Denekamp** (Stichting Vissenbescherming), **Christophe Derrien** (IPIFF), **Richard Donnelly** (BIM), **Andrea Fabris** (API), **Cécile Fouquet** (Secretariat), **Julian Garcia** (MAPAMA), **Marco Gilmozzi** (FEAP), **Ana Granados** (EFFAB), **Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA), **Courtney Hough** (FEAP), **Floor Hulsken** (PO Mosselcultuur), **Jan Kappel** (EAA), **Philippe Le Gal** (CNC), **Marine Levadoux** (CIPA), **Angeles Longa Portabales** (Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia), **Douglas McLeod** (British Trout Association), **Ola Öberg** (RECIRKFISK), **Javier Ojeda** (APROMAR), **Søren Anker Pedersen** (EUFishmeal), **Yannis Pelekanakis** (Federation of Greek Maricultures), **Pierpaolo Piva** (FAI CISL), **Cătălin Platon** (ROMFISH), **Guiseppe Prioli** (AMA), **Sandrine Rambert** (FFA), **Jean-Christophe Raymond** (CNPMEM), **Farid Safi** (Secretariat), **Pier Antonio Salvador** (COPA), **Danilo Santini** (FAI CISL), **Soizic Schwartz** (French Ministry for Agriculture and Food), **Brian Thomsen** (Danish Aquaculture Organisation), **Margreet van Vilsteren** (Good Fish Foundation), **Karel Vanhulle** (Flemish Department for Agriculture and Fisheries), **Douglas Waley** (Eurogroup for Animals), **Maria Walfridson** (Swedish Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation), **Erik Bjorn Olsen** (Danish Society for a Living Sea), **Leo Kirchmaier** (Austrian Fisheries and Aquaculture Organisation), **Andrea Ripol** (Seas at Risk), **Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet** (Observer), **François Allard** (AAC Accountant)

Excused: **Addy Risseeuw** (PO Mosselcultuur), **Jamie Smith** (Scottish Salmon Producers), **Sarah Horsfall** (SAGB), **Alain Dreano** (CRC Bretagne Sud), **Patrice Lafont** (CRC Méditerranée), **Thierry Helie** (CRC Normandie Mer du Nord), **Goulven Brest** (SNEC), **Katie Miller** (Client Earth), **Stéphane Angeri** (SENC), **Irmak Ertör** (ENT), **Silvia Lourenço** (LPN), **Wouter van Zandbrink** (CEP), **Neil Auchterlonie** (CEP)

Delegation of votes: **Addy Risseeuw** (PO Mosselcultuur) to **Guiseppe Prioli** (AMA), **Jamie Smith** (Scottish Salmon Producers) to **Courtney Hough** (FEAP), **Sarah Horsfall** (SAGB) to **Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA), **Alain Dreano** (CRC Bretagne Sud) to **Philippe Le Gal** (CNC), **Patrice Lafont** (CRC Méditerranée) to **Jean-Christophe Raymond** (CNPMEM), **Thierry Helie** (CRC Normandie Mer du Nord) to **Maurice de Saint-Denis** (GMB), **Goulven Brest** (SNEC) to **Stephen Alleaume** (CRC Bretagne Nord), **Katie Miller** (Client Earth) to **Andrea Ripol** (Seas at Risk), **Stéphane Angeri** (SENC) to **Angeles Longa Portabales** (Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia), **Irmak Ertör** (ENT) to **Margreet Van Vilsteren** (Good Fish Foundation), **Silvia Lourenço** (LPN) to **Bruna Campos** (BirdLife),

Abbreviations: **MS** (Member States), **WG** (Working Group), **WP** (Work Programme), **ExCom** (Executive Committee), **ASBL** (Association sans but lucratif), **MAC** (Market Advisory Council), **EMFF** (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund)

1. Welcome by the Chair

The Vice-Chair welcomed members and Member States' representatives.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of Chair Richie Flynn.

2. Adoption of agenda and approval of last GA minutes (29/09/2017)

The **Chair** proposed some changes to the agenda regarding the order of points on the agenda.

The agenda as reordered is accepted by the GA. The last GA minutes are also adopted.

3. Update on the 2017-2018 Budget

AAC Accountant **François Allard** gave a presentation of the situation of 2017-2018 Budget until the 31st of August. He certified that the accounts were complete and correct.

Bruno Guillaumie explained that having a small budget reserve is a good practice for NGOs. He asked whether the AAC was allowed to have such a reserve.

This is OK regarding Belgian rules, **Pascale Colson** replied that grants from the European Commission give no right to profit but encouraged the AAC to send a formal letter to the Commission to get a written answer.

4. AAC Statutes

The AG decides to give more time to the process of the election of a new Chair.

In the meantime, the function of Chair will be filled by the two Vice-chairs Marc-Philip Buckhout and Marco Gilmozzi.

Courtney Hough raised the issue of the legal responsibility of the AAC associated with this way to proceed and suggested the Secretariat reaches out the Chamber of Commerce to identify who is the next legal responsible in the AAC. The **Chair** noted it as an action point for the secretariat.

Pascale Colson expressed concerns on the absence of Chair during one year and reminded that an extraordinary GA could be organized just for the election of the Chair.

The Chair proposed to shorten from one year to six months the period to elect the next Chair and therefore to agree on a candidate during the ExCom of 27th March 2019 and then to launch an emergency written procedure to submit the candidate to the GA. This new Chair will have to be reconfirmed at the September 2019 GA.

The GA agreed on the proposal.

5. AAC Rules of Procedure

The GA agrees to explore the option of 60/40% weighting for the vote in GA further, by reaching to a legal expert before any changes to be adopted.

- *Representational expenses*

The GA agrees that the AAC reimburses members who are appointed by the Management Committee to represent the AAC in an external meeting. The new article 17.4 is approved by the GA as follows : "Attendance costs of AAC members nominated by the Management Committee to represent the AAC actively (i.e. panel speaker, facilitator) in institutional meetings or

conferences/events are reimbursed according to the terms and conditions laid down by article 17-3. Any possible reimbursement by the organiser of the conference/event cannot be cumulated with the AAC reimbursement”.

- *Correct errors: art. 11/7*

The correction of the error in Article 11/7 was accepted by the GA.

- *Creation of a Management Committee*

The GA agrees on a compromise solution: the Management Committee has a 60/40 weighting and reports to the ExCom.

6. Presentation and vote on the 2018-2019 Draft Budget

Cécile Fouquet presented changes in the 2018-2019 Draft Budget in comparison with 2017-2018 budget.

Members then commented the draft budget:

Niels Alsted expressed concern about the cost of written translations. The Chair replied that this budget line was not used significantly. As for interpretation, 4 languages are foreseen (English, French, Italian, Spanish).

Philippe Le Gal said that for technical reasons he and his fellow colleagues were sometimes constrained to spend the night preceding the meeting in Paris rather than Brussels and thus could not ask for reimbursement. That's why all the money allocated to reimbursement is not used. The **Chair** retorted that as several members are based in Brussels, they don't ask for the reimbursement, which explains the surplus. **Cécile Fouquet** said the AAC bases on EC rules.

The 2018-2019 budget was approved.

7. Presentation and vote on the 2018-2019 Work Programme

Some people commented the 2018-2019 WP:

Bruno Guillaumie considered that the WP should be more detailed (timeline, deliverables, people in charge). For him, it is important that WPs reach a high level of precision in the next years.

The Chair said that the WP should remain quite broad to be able to respond to new consultations from the Commission but welcomed the idea of specifying “who does what” and so on.

The 2018-2019 WP was approved.

8. Presentation of the Calendar of meetings for 2018-2019

The Chair presented the calendar of meetings for 2018-2019, which doesn't overlap with EP plenary meetings, the sea food fair and other events.

Bruno Guillaumie insisted on the fact that shellfish farmers cannot join meetings in moments of high tide, in particular the tide of the equinox. And the presented dates are problematic from this point of view. The **Chair** replied these dates are preliminary and could be revised to adapt to tides.

Cécile Fouquet reminded that the ExCom and the WGs could not be combined due to the fact the ExCom needs 10 working days to approve a document from WGs. **Niels Alsted** replied that WGs

could take place and then an Excom could be organized at least 10 days later but with WGs as well.

9. Working groups – update by chairs of the WGs

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

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

Then, **Courtney Hough** announced that the MAC invited FEAP to participate to its focus group on the level-playing field and the holding of the inter-AC meeting on October 16.

Javier Ojeda proposed to represent the AAC in the Inter-AC Brexit meeting in Madrid on the 4th December. **The Chair** welcomed his proposal and said the Secretariat would coordinate with him on that.

10. Presentation by the European Commission on its new EMFF proposal

Pascale Colson (DG MARE) did a presentation on the new EMFF 2021-2027, that was finalized by the European Commission in June 2018.

Some members reacted to the presentation:

Javier Ojeda said that all efforts of simplification of the EMFF have failed over the years. Although simplification sounds good, it is not the solution. The Commission should take into account mistakes of the past.

Bruno Guillaumie said that the EMFF proposal looks simpler but is actually not because the allocation of money in the proposal is subject to compliance with performance indicators. Moreover, nothing in the proposal helps to have more space and water quality, which are two important elements for sustainable aquaculture.

Pascale Colson encouraged Members to make recommendations to their MS to stress which aspects should be taken into consideration by the proposal, the European Parliament and the Council will have to adopt it.

11. Country of the year: Spain

Julián García Baena (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) did a presentation on the Spanish administration's latest initiatives on Maritime Spatial Planning and Aquaculture.

12. Promoting EU Aquaculture in Europe

Richard Donnelly (BIM - Ireland's Seafood Development Agency) did a presentation about the "farmed in the EU campaign" in Ireland, the second country to embrace it.

Margreet van Vilsteren (Good fish foundation) did a presentation on mislabelling of fish and promotion of sustainable fish through the Dutch Seafood festival including farm visits.

13. Presentation of candidates for AAC membership and vote (pending ExCom approval)

The following candidates having received backing from their Member State introduced themselves and were approved by the GA:

- **ROMFISH** National Association of Fish Producers
- **EFFAB** – European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders
- **RECIRKFISK** – De Recirkulerande Vattenbrukarna Sverige Ekonomisk Förening
- **FAI CISL** – Federazione Agricola Alimentare Ambientale Industriale

The following candidate was not approved by the GA due to absence of quorum:

- **IPIFF** – International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed

14. Latest news about AAC UK Members

- Presentation of Initiatives by AAC UK Members:

- **British Trout Association**

Doug McLeod explained in his presentation that with Brexit the UK aquaculture industry will no longer benefit from countervailing duties that the Commission imposes to third countries to prevent unfair competition. The post-Brexit environment is uncertain.

- **Compassion in World Farming**

Phil Brooke did a presentation on fish welfare. Fish sentience and behaviour were addressed.

[17:00h End of the meeting]