

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Executive Committee meeting

2 February 2023 (10:00-13:00)

Online meeting via Zoom – Interpretation available in EN - FR – ES – IT

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

EXCOM MEMBERS

Brian Thomsen (AAC Chair)

Addy Risseeuw (AAC Treasurer)

Operators

Ola Öberg (Recirkfisk)

Ole Christensen (FEFAC)

Teresa Morrissey (IFA)

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)

Christel Perot Camus (CNC)

Javier Ojeda (FEAP)

Catherine Pons (FEAP)

Bernhard Feneis (COGECA)

Luisa Alvarez (Fedepesca)

Giuseppe Prioli (Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori)

Other interest groups

Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescherming)

Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals)

Phil Brooke (CIWF)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Invited: Andrea Fabris (WG1 – Finfish Chair)

Secretariat: Cécile Fouquet (AAC Secretariat), Charlotte Musquar (AAC Secretariat), Tanguy Balcon (AAC Secretariat)



AGENDA

- [Welcome words by the Chair Brian Thomsen](#)
- [Adoption of the agenda and and last meeting's minutes \(06 October 2022\)](#)
- [Follow up on the decisions made at the meeting](#)
- [Working Groups: Updates](#)
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- [Organising AAC technical visits](#)
- [Renewal of AAC Secretariat contract for 2023-2026](#)
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MEETING MINUTES

Welcome words by the Chair Brian Thomsen

The Chair Brian Thomsen welcomed the Executive Committee (ExCom) members and confirmed the quorum.

1. Adoption of the agenda and last meeting's minutes (06 October 2022)

The Chair announced two additional points to be discussed under AOB on DG MARE's foresight hub's activities on 'Fishers of the Future' and the European Year of Skills.

The agenda was adopted with this change.

The minutes of the previous Extraordinary ExCom meeting (06.10.23) were adopted without any change.

2. Follow up on the decisions made at the meeting

The Chair announced that this will be a recurring point on the ExCom agenda.

The Chair reported on the follow-up on the decisions previously taken by the ExCom:



Action	Status
DG MARE Aquaculture Team responsibilities	Received
Send EC answers on recommendations to MS	Likely AAC responsibility but European Commission (EC) will confirm
Update MS national contact list every 6 month	AAC members ok; EC list of MS experts in January
Promotion	Email: Members com. officers, media contact list
Biannual meeting with DG Mare Aquaculture Team	Awaiting EC proposal for next meeting
AAC participate next OMC technical seminar	Awaiting date from the EC; what is our 'agenda'?
Follow up on previous recommendation	Develop a 'protocol/inventory'
Send annual AAC summary report to MS etc.	Stand-by
European Maritime Day: Workshop other AC's	In progress
AAM: MS prog. (uptake rec/growth obj./indicators)	Tasks via the EC; they consider our request
AAC website/leaflet	Today's agenda
Revise per diem/reimbursement	Today's agenda
External evaluation	Today's agenda
Statutes and Rules of Procedure	Today's agenda
Attracting new members	Today's agenda
EU Communication campaign	Today's agenda
AAC secretariat: Tender new contract	Today's agenda
EC strategic foresight initiative	Today's agenda (NEW)
European Year of Skills	Today's agenda (NEW)

Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals) stressed the need on developing a protocol for following up on previous AAC Recommendations, so as to save time during WG meetings.

3. Working Groups: Updates

Andrea Fabris (WG1 Chair) presented the work of WG1.

Paul Denekamp (WG2 Vice Chair) presented the work of WG2.

Douglas Waley (WG3 Chair) presented the work of WG3.

The Chair volunteered to attend the STECF meetings on behalf of the AAC.



He also suggested to contact the Market Advisory Council (MAC) for a common recommendation on the STECF, and maybe on the topic of diets and carbon footprint.

A discussion followed on the time allocated in the WG meetings. Several suggestions were made:

- Have longer meetings;
- Focus on matters that need to be discussed at the WG level: comments on ongoing work should be made at FG level and WG meetings should allow more time for expert presentations and subsequent exchanges of views;
- Have shorter or no external presentations so as to focus on the exchange of views with invited experts;
- Provide interpretation for the FG meetings when needed. The Secretariat recalled that it is already a possibility and seized this occasion to alert that although members sometimes request interpretation services at the Focus Group level (often for one person alone), they often don't attend them in the end without communicating it to the secretariat.
- Ask for members' contributions ahead of the meeting.

4. AAC Budget 2022-2023: update on ongoing financial year

The Secretariat presented the 2022-2023 AAC progress budget.

The Chair recalled the remark made during the Extraordinary General Assembly, regarding the 2021-2022 accounts, to verify the AAC status regarding Belgian legislation on the reserve.

There was no question regarding the progress budget.

5. External evaluation of the AAC functioning

The Secretariat suggested a possibility for a joint-evaluation with other ACs, as to have to have consistency on the criteria used in the evaluation.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) warned against the heavy administrative process for a joint procedure involving a higher budget.

The Secretariat will reach out to other ACs to investigate on the possibilities to set common evaluation criteria and maybe even have the same evaluator and come back to the ExCom with a proposal.

6. Organising AAC technical visits

The ExCom discussed the possibility of organising one of its meetings' abroad every year, coupled with on-site technical visits.

The Chair and Javier Ojeda (FEAP) will come back to the ExCom with a proposal for a first trial.



7. Renewal of AAC Secretariat contract for 2023-2026

The Roadmap presented by the Secretariat for the renewal process was approved.

The Chair's suggestion to handle this process within the Management team and come back to the ExCom with specific issues if needed was approved.

8. Revision of AAC Statutes and Rules of Procedure

The Chair's suggestion to organise a specific ExCom WG meeting in March to discuss this issue was approved.

He invited ExCom members to send their comments beforehand to have them included in the drafts.

9. Revision of AAC reimbursement rules

The Secretariat's proposals for the revision of the AAC reimbursements rules were all approved, except for the suggestion to remove the need for an invoice to justify the compensation for accommodation costs.

10. Attracting new AAC members

ExCom members exchange on ways to attract new AAC members, especially NGOs.

A summary of these ideas will be drafted by the Chair and Secretariat and submitted to the ExCom for approval.

11. EC Aquaculture communication campaign

The Chair gave an update on the EC proposals for the Aquaculture communication campaign and will inform the ExCom on possible amendments.

The ExCom agreed on the remarks made by the Chair on the present draft of communication materials:

- **Targeting:** a focus should be made on the young generation
- **Messages:** suggest that the EC uses the analysis made some years ago in different MS about communication on aquaculture¹
- **Photos:** suggest that the campaign shows people in the industry rather than the products.

¹ https://aac-europe.org/images/jdownloads/AquaC_Campaigns_Analysis.pdf



12. Presentation of ongoing communication activities

The Secretariat give an update on:

- **Annual Summary report of AAC activities:** the draft content has been completed and will be sent to the ExCom for written approval.
- **AAC website and the AAC leaflet:** the Secretariat will make a first review of the new website and ask the webmaster to make a few adjustments before sending the updated version to the ExCom for approval.
- **AAC members' communication officers and media contacts:** the list has been updated with the information sent by AAC members; the Secretariat invited ExCom members to send their own information if it had not already been done.

13. Any other business

Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescherming) enquired whether, if young aquaculture farmers were invited to attend AAC meetings, they would only assist to said meeting or if there would be a possibility to have separated meetings to exchange with them. The Chair recalled the Young Producers FG is expected to propose a detailed program for this visit, first to WG3 then to the ExCom.

EC request on foresight hub's activities: the Chair informed the ExCom that the programme will be launched mid-year in 2023 and continue in 2024.

The Secretariat is mandated to ask DG MARE what kind of input is needed from the ACs.

European year of skills: The Chair suggested to provide some input to the EC, and that this can also be discussed during the next ExCom meeting.

14. Conclusions and closing of the meeting

The Chair thanked the ExCom members for a productive ExCom meeting.

The next ExCom meeting will take place virtually on the 4th of July 2023.

