

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Executive Committee meeting

31 January 2024 (10:00-13:00)

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

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

EXCOM MEMBERS

Brian Thomsen (AAC Chair)
Paul Denekamp (1st Vice-Chair)
Philippe Le Gal (2nd Vice-Chair)
Addy Risseuw (AAC Treasurer)

Operators

Ola Öberg (Recirkfisk)
Javier Ojeda (FEAP)
Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA)
Bernhard Feneis (COGECA)
Ma Luisa Alvarez (FEDEPESCA)
Ole Christensen (FEFAC)
Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)
Giuseppe Prioli (AMA) – Proxy to Bruno Guillaumie
Teresa Morrissey (IFA)

Other interest groups

Phil Brooke (CIWF)
Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Invited: Mo Mathies (NWWAC)

Observers: Thibault Pivetta (CNC), Catherine Pons (FEAP)

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



AGENDA

- [Welcome words by the Chair Brian Thomsen](#)
- [Adoption of the agenda and last meeting's minutes \(26 October 2023\)](#)
- [Follow up on the decisions made at the meeting](#)
- [Protocol for following up on recommendations](#)
- [Update on the Common Aquaculture Policy initiative](#)
- [External performance review](#)
- [Discussion on the MAC](#)
- [Financial compensation for Rapporteurs and Chairs](#)
- [Observers policy](#)
- [Feedback on the AAC Monitoring](#)
- [NGO membership](#)
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- [Any other business](#)
- [Conclusions](#)

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 (26 October 2023)

Four additional topics under AOB were requested:

- (Ola Öberg – Recirkfisk) Follow-up on the European Commission's (EC) invitation to discuss the different sizes of aquaculture farms
- (Bernhard Feneis – COGECA) Possibility to bring forward certain topics to be discussed in the AAC earlier
- (Javier Ojeda – FEAP) Avoiding the overlapping of MAC and AAC meetings
- (Secretariat) Correction of the AAC Secretariat contract for 2023-2027

The agenda was adopted with these additions.

The minutes of the previous ExCom meeting (26.10.2023) were adopted without changes.

2. Follow up on the decisions made at the meeting

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



Action	Status
Biannual meeting with DG MARE Aquaculture Team	A date will be set up at the end of March
OMC MS-AAC-DG MARE meeting	A joint meeting will requested to DG MARE
Follow up on previous recommendation	Today's agenda
Common Aquaculture Policy	Today's agenda
External performance evaluation	Today's agenda
Statutes and Rules of Procedure	Should be adopted during the next General Assembly
NGO membership	Today's agenda
EU Communication campaign	Awaiting selection of ambassadors
Financial compensation of Chairs and Rapporteurs	Today's agenda
ExCom technical visit	Opportunity to organise the next ExCom in Denmark in parallel with the Aqua 2024 event in August. A survey will be sent to the ExCom members to confirm that the July online meeting will be replaced by this meeting.
Website	The 'What is Aquaculture' page has been updated with facts & figures.
Hotel booking	Rooms have been booked by the Secretariat in view of the next WG meetings in Brussels. An e-mail will be sent with all the information.

3. Protocol for following up on recommendations

The Chair presented the draft protocol for following up on recommendations.

It was suggested to add links and colours to make the table easier to use.

The draft protocol will be adopted by written procedure.

4. Update on the Common Aquaculture Policy initiative

The Chair thanked the Focus Group (FG) members and expressed his satisfaction for the fast and collaborative work that led to an agreement.

The Recommendation on an Aquaculture Policy reform was approved with the following amendment: adding "in the short-term" to the aquaculture policy reform recommendation and "in the long-term" to the Common Food Policy recommendation.

Additionally, and in the context of the forthcoming 2024 EU elections, it was suggested that:

- the members will circulate the Recommendation among the future Members of Parliament (MEPs) from



their own Member State (MS),

- a point should be added to the June Working Groups (WG) agendas to discuss the elections and how MEPs can best be reached,
- to organise a special event to present this Recommendation.

The Chair will be discussing these suggestions with the Secretariat.

5. External performance review

The Chair presented the external performance review's results and the draft analysis and action plan.

The members of the ExCom requested that the priority "Increase the diversity of the ExCom team/attract new NGO members" should be moved up to second place.

Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals) suggested that, to save time during WG meetings, only presentations directly linked to the Recommendations should be added to the agendas. Presentations on other topics of interest could be organised in separate meetings.

The amended analysis and action plan will be submitted to written approval.

6. Discussion on the MAC

The ExCom exchanged on the issue of aquaculture market matters being discussed within the Market Advisory Council (MAC), where aquaculture organisations are underrepresented.

A new EXCOM FG will be created to discuss the functioning of the MAC and the organisation of aquaculture-market issues discussions in the AAC.

7. Financial compensation for Rapporteurs and Chairs

The Treasurer presented the draft compensation policy for Rapporteurs and Chairs.

The compensation policy was approved by the ExCom.

8. Observers policy

The Chair presented the draft observers policy proposal.

Several amendments were suggested by the ExCom:

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) suggested a watermark "Confidential" to be added to all working documents.



The amended draft will be submitted for written approval.

9. Feedback on the AAC Monitoring

The ExCom members expressed their satisfaction regarding the new AAC monitoring, which brings them useful information.

The Secretariat was asked to:

- File past editions in the AAC sharepoint,
- Change the bulletin's name to "The EU Aquaculture Newstruck".

10. NGO membership

Mo Mathies (NWWAC Executive Secretary) made a presentation on the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC)'s experience in relation to encouraging further NGO memberships.

The ExCom agreed that this is a priority issue and that it should continue to be discussed in the AAC as well.

11. Updates by the Secretariat

- [Inter-AC meeting](#)

The next Inter-AC meeting will take place on the 6th of February: 5 members of the ExCom will be attending, including the Chair who sent an e-mail with his main speaking points for their approval.

- [Shellfish Conference](#)

The Secretariat attended and made a presentation that had previously been approved by the ExCom. Paul Denekamp (Vice-Chair) attended as well with a mandate from the FG on molluscan welfare.

- [EMD workshop](#)

The EC has decided to attribute one workshop to all ACs and it has been decided to organise it on debunking myths on fisheries and aquaculture. A speaker from the BIM will take part on a suggestion from the Secretariat.

Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals) offered to share a document that has been produced by his organisation in relation to debunking myths. He also underlined the importance for the contents of the workshop to have been reviewed within the AAC to ensure that it is consensual.

- [New AAC Members](#)

Two new members' applications (Organic Aquaculture Denmark and BVFi) will be validated by the ExCom by written procedure and their membership will then be confirmed during the next GA meeting.



- [Website updates](#)

Due to a lack of time, this update will be presented to the ExCom by e-mail.

- [Facts and Figures 2023](#)

Due to a lack of time, this update will be presented to the ExCom by e-mail.

12. Any other business

- Small-scale aquaculture: to relaunch the discussion following the EC reply to the AAC Recommendation, a **new meeting of the FG will be organised. The Secretariat will send an invitation.**
- **The AAC Secretariat contract for 2023-2027 will be recirculated for written approval.**

13. Conclusions and closing of the meeting

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

The next ExCom meeting will take place online on the **17 April 2024.**

