

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Extraordinary General Assembly meeting

16th September 2025 (09:00-11:45 CET)

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

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Brian Thomsen (Chair)	(Consello Regulador do	Akvakultur)
Paul Denekamp (1 st Vice-Chair)	Mexillón de Galicia)	Alain Schonbrodt (FVE)
Philippe Le Gal (2 nd Vice-Chair)	Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA)	Vincent Godefroy
Addy Risseuw (Treasurer)	Béla Halasi-Kovács (COGECA)	(Groupement des
Katarina Sipic (AIPCE)	David Bassett (EATIP)	Mytiliculteurs sur Bouchots)
Leo Kirchmaier (ALFAA)	Alexandra Philippe (EBCD)	Teresa Morrissey (IFA)
Lorenzo Gennari (AMA)	Charlotte Epinay (Eurogroup	Hein Sas (NORA)
Andrea Fabris (API)	for Animals)	Nathalie Gamain (OFI)
Javier Ojeda (APROMAR)	Semi Kilic (EFFOP)	Lino Suarez (OPMEGA)
Marine Levadoux (CIPA) –	Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)	Anna Swacha (Polish trout
<i>Proxy to Szilvia Mihalfy (FEAP)</i>	Danilo Santini (FAI CSL)	Breeders Association)
Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet	Szilvia Mihalfy (FEAP)	Stéphane Angeri (SENC)
(CNC)	Luisa Alvarez (FEDEPESCA)	Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK)
Florian Guillou (CNPMEM)	Alexander Döring (FEFAC)	Christian Vorbeck
Phil Brooke (CIWF)	Birte Brorson (Foreningen	(RECIRKFISK)
Angeles Longa Portabales	Netværk for Økologisk	Catalin Platon (ROMFISH)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Invited: Costas Kadis (EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans)

Observers: Josefine Qvist Albertsen (Danish Ministry of Food Agriculture and Fisheries), Magdalena Tenciu (Institute of Research and Development of Aquatic Ecology, Aquaculture and Fishing Galati, Romania), Pieter Roden (Foodrise EU), Maria Egehoved (Danish Ministry of Food Agriculture and Fisheries)

Secretariat: Cynthia Benites (AAC Secretariat), Alicia Mouthuy (AAC Secretariat)



AGENDA

1. [Welcome words by the Chair and adoption of the agenda](#)
2. [Presentation by Commissioner Costas Kadis](#)
3. [Approval of the Strategic Plan 2025-2026](#)
4. [Approval of the budget for 2025-2026](#)
5. [Approval of the new Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#)
6. [Designation of Chair, Vice-chairs and Treasurer for 2025-2028](#)
7. [Election of the Executive Committee members for 2025-2028](#)
8. [Information on the calendar of meetings for 2025-2026](#)
9. [AAC Activities in 2024-2025 and Chair updates](#)
10. [Video of the Danish minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Jacob Jensen](#)
11. [Any other business](#)
12. [Date and place of the forthcoming General Assembly meeting](#)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome words by the Chair and adoption of the agenda

Brian Thomsen (Chair) welcomed the participants and confirmed the quorum. The agenda was approved without any changes.

2. Presentation by Commissioner Costas Kadis

Brian Thomsen (Chair) welcomed the Commission's initiative on establishing a 2040 vision for fisheries and agriculture, noting consensus on a recently adopted recommendation on a specific vision for aquaculture, that includes supportive opinions from the Market Advisory Council. The EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadis, presented his vision for EU aquaculture, highlighting its potential for sustainable growth and addressing challenges such as stagnation in production, dependency on imports, and environmental issues. He outlined plans for the Vision 2040, which will be co-created with stakeholders, and discussed the role of the European Ocean Pact in supporting sustainable aquaculture development.

3. Approval of the Strategic Plan 2025-2026

The Secretariat presented both the process leading to the adoption of the draft Strategic Plan (SP) for 2025–2026, as well as the content of the plan itself.

Two amendments will need to be made to the SP: the Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture for 2040 needs to be removed as already adopted, and the nature credits consultation is already finalized.

The SP for 2025-2026 was adopted with these changes.



4. Approval of the budget for 2025-2026

The Secretariat presented the draft budget for 2025-2026.

The Treasurer recommended the adoption of the budget as presented.

The budget for 2025-2026 was adopted without changes.

5. Approval of the new Statutes and Rules of Procedure

Brian Thomsen (Chair) presented the proposed changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

Alexander Döring (FEFAC) raised a question about the distinction between the treasurer role and the external auditor required by Belgian law, leading to a brief explanation from **Alain Schonbrodt (FVE)** about the typical structure of auditors in Belgian non-profit associations.

The amendments made to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure were approved with the consideration of adding a section on auditors to the Rules of Procedure.

6. Designation of Chair, Vice-chairs and Treasurer for 2025-2028

The Secretariat presented the candidates for Chair, Vice-chairs and Treasurer for 2025-2028. **Brian Thomsen (Danish Aquaculture Producer Organisation)** was re-elected as Chair, **Charlotte Epinay (Eurogroup for Animals)** was elected as First Vice Chair, **Philippe Le Gal (CNC)** was re-elected as Second Vice Chair, and **Addy Risseuw (Po Mosselcultuur)** was re-elected as Treasurer.

7. Election of the Executive Committee members for 2025-2028

The Secretariat presented the candidates representing operators and other interest groups for members of the Executive Committee members for 2025-2028.

Fish farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ola Öberg (Recirkfisk PO) • Javier Ojeda (FEAP) • Pier Salvador (Copa) • Béla Halasi-Kovács (Cogeca)
Processors and sellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luisa Alvarez (Fedepesca) • Wouter Van Zandbrink (CEP)
Feed manufacturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ole Christensen (FEFAC)
Shellfish producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Morrissey (IFA) • Angeles Longa (Mexillon de Galicia) • Lorenzo Gennari (AMA) • Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)
Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne-Laure Pregot-Cauchet (CNC)
Other interest groups' designated candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Epinay (Eurogroup for Animals) • Phil Brooke (CIWF)



Members of the Executive Committee for 2025-2028 were elected by the General Assembly.

8. Information on the calendar of meetings for 2025-2026

The calendar and format of meetings for 2025-2026 were presented by the Secretariat.

9. AAC Activities in 2024-2025 and Chair updates

The Secretariat presented the AAC achievements during the past year¹. These included 19 Focus Groups meetings so far, progress on 20 recommendations (including 10 already approved), EC participation to AAC meetings and the organisation of a public webinar.

No further update was provided by the Chair.

Many members reacted to this presentation. **Alexander Döring (FEFAC)** suggested to engage DG CLIMATE and DG GROW in AAC meetings, **Pier Salvador (COPA)** highlighted the need to be more selective about which contact person from DGs are involved and encouraged closer cooperation with fisheries, **Ola Öberg (Recirkfisk PO)** and **Alain Schonbrodt (FVE)** underlined the need to target key stakeholders (such as MEPs) and media. **Leo Kirchmaier (ALFAA)** shared Austria's success in gaining international visibility for its carp pond farming, which was recognised under the FAO programme "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems". **Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)** finally stressed the importance of continuing to federate the aquaculture sector and engage with environmental NGOs.

10. Video of the Danish minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Jacob Jensen

The meeting featured a video presentation from the Danish minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Jacob Jensen on a new Danish aquaculture policy on the green transformation of aquaculture. The minister highlighted initiatives including allocating around €4 million to investments in climate and environmentally friendly aquaculture, explore options for increasing the sectors production capacity, moving production from near-shore waters to the open sea to reduce nitrogen emissions to coastal water, and an emphasis on low-trophic aquaculture.

Many members reacted to this presentation. **The AAC members decided to draft a letter to the Danish minister expressing gratitude and acknowledging the new Danish policy.**

11. Any other business

There were no other businesses.

12. Date and place of the forthcoming General Assembly meeting

The next GA meeting will take place online on 25 February 2026.

¹ [AAC-activities-2024-2025.pdf](#)

