

Aquaculture Advisory Council

General Assembly meeting

22nd September 2026 (10:00-13:00 CET)

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

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Brian Thomsen (Chair)	Florian Guillou (CNPMEM)	Nathalie Gamain (OFI)
Charlotte Epinay (1 st Vice-Chair)	Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA)	Lino Suarez (OPMEGA)
Addy Risseeuw (Mosselcultuur)	Catherine Pons (EATIP)	Angeles Longa Portabales (Mexillon de Galicia)
Melanie Haslauer (ALFAA)	Violaine Deneef (EBCD)	Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK)
Maud Vezien (ALI)	James Hinchcliffe (EFFOP)	Christian Vorbeck (RECIRKFISK)
Lorenzo Gennari (AMA)	Birte Brorson (Danish Aquaculture)	Catalin Platon (ROMFISH)
Isidro Blanquet (APA)	Danilo Santini (FAI CISL)	Stéphane Angeri (SENC)
Andrea Fabris (API)	Javier Ojeda (FEAP)	Anja Oest (VDBA)
Phil Brooke (CIWF)	Luisa Alvarez (FEDEPESCA)	Paul Denekamp (Vissenbescherming)
Alexandre Cottier-Pérez (CIWF)	Ole Christensen (FEFAC)	
	Alain Schonbrodt (FVE)	

Represented by proxy: CRC Bretagne-Sud, represented by Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet (CNC); BVFI, represented by Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK); CIPA, represented by Andrea Fabris (API); EFFAB, represented by Catherine Pons (EATIP); EMPA, represented by Addy Risseeuw (Mosselcultuur); IFA, represented by Javier Ojeda (FEAP).

Excused: Béla Halasi-Kovacs (COGECA), Manuel Sabary (CRC Normandie)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Secretariat: Cécile Fouquet (AAC Secretariat), Alicia Mouthuy (AAC Secretariat)

Observers: Luxembourgish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Viticulture; Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and the Environment; Romanian National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority; Shellfish Association of Great Britain

Invited: Tristan Macquet (Le Paysan Marin), Benjamin Denjean (Le Paysan Marin), Jesús del Saz (Animal Welfare Observatory), Alkistis Chrysanthi Parpoura (Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food)



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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. Keynote speeches and Q&As

The **Secretariat** presented written remarks provided by MEP Carmen Crespo Díaz, Chair of the European Parliament's PECH Committee. MEP Crespo Díaz highlighted the need to strengthen the competitiveness and growth of EU aquaculture. She also referred to the AAC's call for a Common Aquaculture Policy and stressed aquaculture's contribution to food security, strategic autonomy, employment and competitiveness. She called the AAC to continue working on timely recommendations. The European Parliament also considers AAC's recommendations for its work.

Dr Alkistis Chrysanthi Parpoura, Director General for Fisheries at the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food, presented Greece's approach to supporting sustainable aquaculture¹. During the Q&A session, members discussed fish welfare and the development of mussel farming in Greece.

3. Approval of the Strategic Plan 2026-2027

The **Secretariat** presented the Strategic Plan (SP) for 2026-2027, which forms part of the documents submitted to the European Commission in connection with the AAC's annual funding. The **Chair** clarified that the

¹ <https://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Dr-Parpouras-presentation.pdf>



commitments included in the SP do not prevent the AAC from developing additional recommendations on other relevant issues during the year.

The SP for 2026-2027 was adopted without any change.

4. Approval of the budget for 2026-2027

The Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the 2025-2026 budget, and then presented the budget for 2026-2027, highlighting the AAC would use the available reserves and the expected 2025-2026 surplus to invest in further visibility and dissemination activities to promote the AAC's work.

The Treasurer noted that the proposed budget had been discussed by the ExCom and supported the additional investment in the visibility of the AAC.

The budget for 2026-2027 was adopted without changes.

5. AAC membership candidates

Jesús del Saz presented the Observatorio de Bienestar Animal (Animal Welfare Observatory) and its activities² on fish welfare.

No consensus was reached on this application, and a vote had to take place, with 16 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 9 abstentions. **After verification, the required quorum was met and abstentions are not counted³: the application was validated by the GA.**

Tristan Macquet, co-founder and CEO of Le Paysan Marin, presented the organisation and its activities⁴. **The application of Le Paysan Marin to join the AAC was validated by consensus.**

The General Assembly members agreed with the categorisation of these two new AAC members in the "Other Interests" stakeholders' group.

6. AAC ExCom candidates

The General Assembly's "Other Interests" stakeholders group members approved the nominations of Le Paysan Marin and Animal Welfare Observatory as new members to the AAC Executive Committee as representatives of the Other Interests Group.

7. Information on the calendar of meetings for 2026-2027

The calendar and format of meetings for 2026-2027 were presented by the Secretariat.

No comments were raised by members.

² <https://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/AWOs-presentation.pdf>

³ [Article 3 of the AAC Rules of Procedure](#)

⁴ <https://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Le-Paysan-Marins-presentation.pdf>



8. AAC work in 2025-2026 and Chair updates

The **Secretariat** presented the AAC work during the past year⁵, including the expected adoption of 18 recommendations, contributions to Commission consultations and cooperation with other Advisory Councils. They also highlighted the AAC's first two webinars, its 10th anniversary event and continued exchanges with the European Commission and Member States. Following feedback from Member States, the AAC will notably develop concise policy briefs to support the dissemination of its main recommendations.

The **Chair** welcomed the European Parliament's support for a Common Aquaculture Policy⁶ and encouraged members to continue promoting the proposal at EU and national level. He also updated members on the AAC's participation in the Water Resilience Stakeholder Platform as a member and the European Ocean Board as an observer. The AAC will further discuss its priorities on water resilience and analyse the forthcoming Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2040 once published.

9. Any other business

There were no additional points discussed under AOB.

10. Date and place of the forthcoming General Assembly meeting

The Chair thanked the members to be more inclusive and the interpreters.

The next GA meeting will take place online on 23 February 2027 (morning).

⁵ <https://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Looking-back-2026.pdf>

⁶ European Parliament resolution of 17 September 2026 on "The role of social, economic and environmental standards in safeguarding fair competition for all aquatic food products and improving food security", https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2026-0314_EN.pdf

