

Aquaculture Advisory Council

General Assembly

Minutes

Brussels, 10th September 2019 (09:00-16:30)

Attendants: **Marc-Philip Buckhout** (Vice-Chair acting Chair), **Maria Luisa Alvarez Blanco** (FEDEPESCA), **Stéphane Angeri** (SNEC), **Cynthia Benites** (Observer), **Bruna Campos** (BirdLife), **Maurice de Saint-Denis** (GMB), **Paul Denekamp** (Stichting Vissenbescherming), **Christophe Derrien** (IPIFF), **Alexander Döring** (FEFAC), **Andrea Fabris** (API), **Bernhard Feneis** (COGECA), **Cécile Fouquet** (Secretariat), **Marco Gilmozzi** (FEAP), **Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA), **Thierry Helie** (CRC Normandie – Mer du Nord), **Sarah Horsfall** (SAGB), **Philippe Le Gal** (CRC Bretagne Sud), **Marine Levadoux** (CIPA), **Angeles Longa Portabales** (Regulatory Council of the Galician Mussel), **Goran Markulin** (Croatian Aquaculture Association), **Teresa Morrissey** (IFA), **Ola Öberg** (RECIRKFISK), **Erik Bjorn Olsen** (Danish Society for a living Sea), **Edson Panana Villalobos** (INAGRO), **Ioannis Pelekanakis** (Federation of Greek Maricultures), **Pierpaolo Piva** (FAI CISL), **Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet** (CNC), **Giuseppe Prioli** (AMA), **Francesco Proscia** (FVE) **Zoran Radan** (Croatian Aquaculture Association), **Sandrine Rambert** (FFA), **Addy Risseeuw** (PO Mosselcultuur), **Farid Safi** (Secretariat), **Pier Antonio Salvador** (COPA), **Danilo Santini** (FAI CISL), **Kathryn Stack** (FEAP), **Margreet van Vilsteren** (Good Fish Foundation), **Wouter van Zandbrink** (PO Mosselcultuur), **Douglas Waley** (Eurogroup for Animals)

Excused: **Phil Brooke** (CIWF), **Daniel Coirier** (CRC Charente-Maritime), **Leo Kirchmaier** (Austrian Fisheries and Aquaculture Association), **Jean-Yves Le Goff** (CRC Pays de la Loire), **Marie-Christine Monfort** (WSI), **Javier Ojeda** (AAC Chair), **Catalin Platon** (ROMFISH), **Jean-Christophe Raymond** (CNPMEM), **Brian Thomsen** (Danish Aquaculture Organisation)

Delegation of votes: **Phil Brooke** (CIWF) to **Douglas Waley** (Eurogroup for Animals) **Marc-Philip Buckhout** (Seas at Risk) to **Margreet van Vilsteren** (Good Fish Foundation), **Daniel Coirier** (CRC Charente-Maritime) to **Giuseppe Prioli** (AMA), **Jean-Yves Le Goff** (CRC Pays de la Loire) to **Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA), **Javier Ojeda** (APROMAR) to **Ioannis Pelekanakis** (Federation of Greek Maricultures), **Catalin Platon** (ROMFISH) to **Bernhard Feneis** (COGECA) **Jean-Christophe Raymond** (CNPMEM) to **Anne-Laure Prego Cauchet** (CNC)

Abbreviations: **Excom** (Executive Committee), **GA** (General Assembly); **OMC** (Open Method of Coordination); **WP** (Work Programme)

1. Welcome words by the Chair

The Chair congratulated **Farid Safi** (AAC Secretariat) for his recent wedding and **Leo Kirchmaier** (Austrian Fisheries and Aquaculture Association) for the birth of his twins. He also wished quick recovery to Javier Ojeda (AAC Chair) and excused **Marie-Christine Monfort** (from WSI, candidate for AAC membership) who could not attend the meeting.



2. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the last extraordinary GA minutes (31st January, 2019, Paris)

The agenda and the minutes of last meeting were adopted.

3. AAC membership: presentation of candidates, decision on group repartition and approval

In preamble, Cécile Fouquet read aloud the text of AAC Chair Javier Ojeda, calling to find consensus about the categorisation (between « sector organisations » and « other interest groups ») of new members.

Croatian Aquaculture Association (CAA)

Goran Markulin (CAA) presented the CAA – attached to the Croatian Chamber of Commerce. The association was founded in 2004 and gathers all companies involved in aquaculture production in Croatia. Since 2005, it has been a member of FEAP.

The CAA was approved as new AAC member among sector organisations.

Women in the Seafood Industry (WSI)

WSI could not be introduced due to the absence of its representative **Marie-Christine Monfort**.

A long debate took place, with the 60% thinking that this association should be allocated to the 40% group, and the 40% group having doubts about the positions of WSI in relation to the sector.

The 40% group threatened to leave the AAC if a vote was to take place, as they would consider it to be an imposition of the will of the sector organisations.

After a long debate, the GA decided that WSI would become a member of the AAC but that the decision on the categorisation was postponed.

4. Calendar for next year of AAC meetings

The calendar for next year of AAC meetings was submitted to the GA for approval.

The following dates were approved by the members :

4 & 5 February 2020 : Working Groups

6 February 2020 : Executive Committee

9 & 10 June 2020 : Working Groups

8 September 2020 : General Assembly

7-8 October 2020 : Working Groups

9 October : Executive Committee

Following a remark of **Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA) considering that an Excom should take place shortly before the GA to let sufficient time to adopt the draft budget and draft Work Programme, it was decided to determine on a later stage whether the Excom scheduled on 11 June 2020 will take place on that day or be postponed to July or August.

5. Executive Committee renewal: election of members for next 3 years

The following members were approved as Excom members for the next 3 years:

- Fish farmers
FEAP
COGECA
COPA
Federation of Greek Maricultures
- Feed manufacturers
FEFAC
- Employees
CNC
- Shellfish farmers
EMPA
AMA
Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia
PO Mosselcultuur
- Representatives from processing and distribution sector
Fedepesca
CEP
- Other interest groups
Seas At Risk
Good Fish Foundation
Compassion in World Farming
Vissenbescherming
Eurogroup for Animals
Danish society for a living sea

2 seats are still available among the "Other interest groups".

6. AAC 2019-2020

- Presentation and approval of the Work Programme for next year

The Chair pointed out that the EC received the draft WP and had no objection about it.

Some members commented the draft WP:

Pier Antonio Salvador (API) requested that the Secretariat centralises the information of all the events on Aquaculture happening in the EU.

Bernhard Feneis (COGECA) said that the WPs should be adapted to the EU agenda.

The Chair replied that steps have been taken in that sense, giving the example of the planned work on the next Strategic Guidelines of the EC for aquaculture. He agreed that the AAC must be able to spontaneously take up some topics that may arise.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) considered useful to update the Recommendation adopted on the Control Regulation following the remarks that may come from the EP and Council.

The Chair agreed that the Recommendation on the Control Regulation can be sent to the new Fisheries Committee of the EP.

The WP was approved with a change of the name of title V which should now read "Point V: food security and safety".

- Presentation and approval of the Budget for next year

Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat) presented the draft budget for next year. Four Member States have committed to contribute to AAC functioning for next year: Spain, Germany, France and Finland. Some member organisations didn't renew their membership for next year.

The budget was adopted as presented.

7. AAC language policy

It was decided that past and future AAC recommendations would be translated into **French, Italian, Spanish and German**. In addition, it was decided that the recommendations be - if requested - also translated into **Greek and Polish** on a case by case basis. **The Chair** added that draft recommendations will be edited to ensure good quality of drafting.

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) reminded that translations were not only useful to the EC and Member States but also for members themselves, as they need to know what they actually vote for within the AAC.

8. Amendment proposal to the AAC Rules of Procedure and Statutes

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) suggested to provide for :

- 3 Vice-Chairs instead of 2 for increased representativity (1 from Finfish category, 1 from shellfish category, 1 from the other interest groups)
- the immediate shift to the vote by simple majority of present members in case of absence of quorum at the GA, instead of convening another GA one month later.

The Chair said it will be checked whether proposed changes to AAC Rules of

Procedures and Statutes are in accordance with Belgian Law.

9. Election of AAC Chair and two Vice-Chairs for next 3 years

Javier Ojeda (APROMAR) was re-elected AAC Chair for the period 2019-2022

Marc-Philip Buckhout (Seas at Risk) was re-elected AAC 1st Vice-Chair for the period 2019-2022.

Addy Risseeuw (PO Mosselcultuur) was elected AAC 2nd Vice-Chair

10. Election of AAC Treasurer

Addy Risseeuw (PO Mosselcultuur) was elected as Treasurer.

11. AAC achievements in 2018-2019

Farid Safi (Secretariat) presented the achievements of the AAC in 2018-2019: fruitful meetings, several Focus Groups active, 5 adopted Recommendations, organisation of a workshop in Lisbon and participation in other high-level events.

Margreet van Vilsteren (Good fish foundation) said achievements but also downsides should also be presented (e.g. the current (e.g. the fact there are 2 vacant seats in the Excom among the « other interest groups » category).

12. Focus on Flemish aquaculture initiatives

The GA members listened to three presentations¹ about Flemish Aquaculture initiatives:

Karel Van Hulle, from the Department of agriculture and fisheries, Flemish government, presented the Belgian Aquaculture landscape, the Flemish Aquaculture platform and innovative Research projects in Flanders.

Edson Panana Villalobos, from the INAGRO Research Institute, presented aquaculture activities in his institution: Intensive culture of pikeperch in recirculating aquaculture systems, experiments to improve hatching rate, eggs, growth of different crops in aquaponics systems, etc.

Matthias Sandra & Fien De Raedemaecker, from the Flanders Marine Institute, presented the AQUA-LIT project, which aims at increasing the understanding, awareness and availability of solutions that tackle marine littering from aquaculture so a potential transformation towards a less polluting sector becomes possible.

13. Dissemination of AAC results

¹ The presentations are available on the AAC website: <https://aac-europe.org/en/meetings/past-events/event/51-general-assembly>

The Chair encouraged members to send any new ideas for the dissemination of the AAC results to the Secretariat.

14. AOB

Bernhard Feneis (COGECA) read aloud the conclusions of the last International Carp Conference in Bavaria:

- There is an urgent need for legislative changes in the status of fish predators. Farmers should be allowed to protect these species and to protect their fish from these species.
- There should be compensation for the cost of environmental services done by farmers
- A 100% EU-funded promotion of carp is needed.

15. Date and place of the forthcoming meeting

5th of February in Brussels – exceptional meeting to approve the AAC accounts.