

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

39/2 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

29 April 2022

(Online meeting)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chairperson of ECA (Mr Marios GEORGIADIS) opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Executive Committee (the ExCom) to the second meeting after the 42nd Session of the ECA.

Adoption of the agenda¹

The meeting agenda was adopted with no requests on additional items.

The adopted meeting agenda is presented in Annex 2.

2. Update on the main themes and the status of preparations for the 33rd Session of ERC (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)

Mr Nabil GANGI presented the status of the preparations for the 33rd Session of ERC (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022). He noted that this ERC is being organized in a difficult time, referring to the conflict in Ukraine that affects the whole region and more.

Mr GANGI informed that the Conference will begin with the Inauguration Ceremony as it is customary, on 10 May 2022, then the actual Session will start on 11 May 2022 in the morning. He brought to the attention of the ExCom that according to the letter² received and signed by 44 Members of the region and in line with the Rules of Procedure of the ERC and according to the instruction of the DG, an agenda item has been added to the provisional Annotated Agenda of the Regional Conference. This agenda item is: *Item 8 - Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine*. Mr GANGI added that a background document is being prepared to this agenda item and it will be published on the official website of the Conference as soon as possible, so that Members can prepare their reactions to it. He added that a letter from the Russian Federation in response³ to the letter of the 44 Members and to the revision of the Provisional Agenda has also been received and published on the ERC website as information document.

He also noted that all the background documents for the Session are being or will be published on the official webpage of the Conference in the four official languages of the ERC. Regarding the registration for the ERC, he mentioned that the deadline for the registration for in person participation has already

¹ Document number ECA_ExCom_39/2-1

(https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/Events_2022/excom39_2/39_2_1.pdf)

² Letter from FAO Members - request for an additional agenda item at the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) (<https://www.fao.org/3/ni794en/ni794en.pdf>)

³ Letter from the Russian Federation on the revision of the Provisional Annotated Agenda of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) (<https://www.fao.org/3/nj021en/nj021en.pdf>)

expired, however it is still open for the ones who wish to take part virtually. He brought to the attention of the ExCom that some high-level participants are expected to attend the Conference in person or virtually (ministers, deputy-ministers).

He added that in order to streamline the proceedings of the Regional Conference, a written consultation procedure has been implemented to discuss selected items prior to the Session. Members and Observers were requested to submit inputs and statements on the selected documents from 1 April until 25 April. No inputs were received by the Secretariat until the deadline.

Ms POPANDONOVA, Mr JÍLEK and Mr ANTYUKHIN requested the Secretariat to provide them the list of the high-level participants on the ERC in person and virtually, so that bilateral meetings can be arranged between ministers and/or deputy-ministers.

Mr KUSHNAZAROV asked about the official procedure of voting at the ERC. Mr GANGI replied that if voting is necessary, in line with the Rules of Procedure the format of the voting will be a roll-call.

Mr GEORGIADES inquired about the adoption of the report of the ERC. Mr GANGI explained that according to the Rules of Procedure of the ERC, the report is prepared by the report officers and the Rapporteur(s) (elected in the beginning of the Session from among the representatives of the Members), then it is presented to the Conference by the Rapporteur(s) for adoption.

Action:

The Secretariat to provide the list of high-level participants in the ERC to the ExCom.

3. Process for the identification of the main technical theme for the 43rd Session of ECA (September 2023)

Mr WŁODARCZYK referred to the discussion that took place under AOB at the 39/1 meeting of the ExCom and introduced document ECA_ExCom/39/2-2⁴, which presented the draft invitation to the call for proposals for the main technical theme for the 43rd Session of the ECA as well as topics covered at previous sessions of the ECA and the ERC.

He requested the ExCom's advice on whether the invitation for the call for the proposals for the main technical theme should be sent on behalf of the FAO ADG, the Chairperson of the ECA or the Secretary of the ECA. Mr GEORGIADES proposed that the letter be co-signed by the Chairperson and the ADG. The ExCom accepted this proposal.

Mr JÍLEK raised a concern if the call should be referring to identifying the main *technical* theme or just the main theme of the Session and whether just one main theme should be advised by the Members or more subtopics as well. Mr WŁODARCZYK explained that in accordance with the report of the Assessment of the ECA⁵ carried out in 2017, each session should focus on one overarching main technical theme, which may have subtopics that help address the theme from different perspectives.

⁴ https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/Events_2022/excom39_2/39_2_2.pdf

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/mu351e/mu351e.pdf>, <https://www.fao.org/3/bt620e/bt620e.pdf>

The ExCom agreed that in the invitation for the call, the request for subtopics under the main technical theme should be highlighted to be more visible and to make the proposals more complete.

Mr GEORGIADES noticed that in the list of themes of previous ECA and ERC Sessions, the 33rd Session of ERC is referred as a previous Session, even though it did not happen yet, and that the new item added to the agenda, namely: *Item 8 - Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine* has not been added to the list.

The ExCom agreed that the invitation to the call be sent out after the 33rd Session of the ERC, when its outcomes are known (around 15 May) and that the deadline for the responses be extended until 15 July. If the Conference approves the agenda of the ERC with the additional Item 8 in it, then this item should also be listed among the themes of previous sessions of the ERC attached to the invitation call sent to the Members of the ECA.

Action:

The Secretariat to highlight the text on technical sub-topics in the invitation for the call for the main theme identification and change the deadline for submissions to 15 July 2022.

The Secretariat to modify the list of themes of the previous ECAs and ERCs if necessary after the 33rd Session of the ERC.

The Secretariat to send the invitation for the call to the Members soon after the 33rd Session of the ERC (around 15 May).

4. Any other business

Mr GEORGIADES brought to the attention of the Secretariat that the following webpage related to the ECA needs to be updated: https://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsb-subject-matter/statutory-bodies-details/en/c/76/?no_cache=1, especially that it mentioned Mr Paul KIERNAN, the former Chairperson of the ECA, as the Secretary of the ECA.

Mr JÍLEK requested that the Secretariat give regular updates at the meetings of the ExCom on the effects of the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on FAO's work on food security in the Region and beyond, especially on the implementation of the Regional Office programme of work and on projects and related activities in Ukraine and in the most affected countries in the region (technical information on REU's work relating to agricultural matters). It was explained that this would allow the ExCom to be familiar with the work and efforts of the REU in Ukraine and in the region and also be in a position to inform their governments and ECA Members accordingly.

Mr ANTYUKHIN suggested that the regular updates to the ExCom do not cover Ukraine only, but any important situation in the Region.

The Secretariat requested that if any update is to be presented, it should have a clear focus rather than be expected to cover all current situations.

The ExCom approved the above-mentioned proposal and noted that it should be further considered in order to identify specific areas of interest and provide guidance to the Secretariat.

Action:

The Secretariat to update the webpage mentioned by Mr GEORGIADES.

5. Closing of the meeting

The Chairperson thanked the ExCom members for their participation and closed the meeting.

Annex 1

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE**39/2 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

29 April 2022

11.00-12.30 hrs (Rome time)

Online meeting

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Role	Country/Organization	Name	Present/Absent
1.	ECA Chairperson	Cyprus	Mr Marios GEORGIADES	Present
2.	ECA Vice-Chairperson	North Macedonia	Ms Lidija POPANDONOVA	Present
3.	ECA Vice-Chairperson	Russian Federation	Mr Kirill ANTYUKHIN	Present
4.	ExCom Member	Czechia	Mr Jiří JÍLEK	Present
5.	ExCom Member	Greece	Mr Serkos A. CHAROUTOUNIAN	Present
6.	ExCom Member	Hungary	Ms Lilla EGRI	Present
7.	ExCom Member	Serbia	Ms Vedrana ILIĆ	Absent
8.	ExCom Member	Slovakia	Mr Andreas FABIAN	Present
9.	ExCom Member	Uzbekistan	Mr Nuriddin KUSHNAZAROV	Present
10.	Deputy Regional Representative, FAO Europe and Central Asia	FAO REU	Mr Nabil GANGI	Present
11.	Acting Secretary of ECA	FAO REU	Mr Piotr WŁODARCZYK	Present
12.	Executive Programme Management Specialist	FAO REU	Ms Zsafia HORVÁTH	Present
13.	ERC-ECA Secretariat	FAO REU	Ms Eniko KOTI	Present

Annex 2

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE**39/2 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

29 April 2022
 11.00-12.00 hrs
 Online (Zoom)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

No.	Agenda Item Title	Document No./Link	Presenter
	Opening of the meeting	-	CHAIRPERSON
1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECA_ExCom/39/2-1	EXCOM
2.	Update on the main themes and the status of preparations for the 33rd Session of ERC (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)	-	DRR
3.	Process for the identification of the main technical theme for the 43rd Session of ECA (September 2023)	ECA_ExCom/39/2-2	ECA SECRETARY
4.	Any other business	-	PARTICIPANTS
	Close of the meeting	-	CHAIRPERSON