



Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia Budapest, 29-30 May 2017

Background Note

Session 7 - Agenda of the 31st Regional Conference for Europe

1. The 31st Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) will be held in May 2018. The purpose of this paper is to obtain inputs from the Members for preparing the draft provisional agenda for the ERC.

2. The agenda for Regional Conferences consists of the following four standard sections agreed for Regional Conferences: (i) Introductory items; (ii) Regional and global policy and regulatory issues; (iii) Programme and budget matters; and (iv) Other matters, including Information notes.

3. Introductory Items (i): This section consists of standard opening items like, election of Chairperson and others, adoption of agenda and delivery of several statements.

4. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues (ii): About one to two important topics pertinent for the region are discussed under this section of the agenda. One of these items is the Ministerial roundtable. Members are invited to propose topics for this part of the agenda with special emphasis of the Ministerial roundtable. For easier reference, Annex 1 to this document provides information on topics presented under this section at previous ERCs.

5. Programme and Budget Matters (iii): Issues like decentralized office network as well results and priorities for FAO's work in the Region are standard items discussed under this section.

6. Other Matters (iv): The Council at its 151st session in March 2015 in reviewing the document "Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms (C2015/26 Rev.1) endorsed the suggestion "*that the priorities identified by the regional technical commissions on forests and fisheries could be included as an integral part of the Regional Conference reports to Council as regard priorities for the work of the Organization in each region*" noting however, that caution need to be exercised to avoid duplication of work, as the priorities of the regional technical commissions are already reflected in the reports of the Technical Committees. In line with this, besides the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), the other two regional article-VI bodies, the European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) also started reporting to the ERC from the 30th ERC Session. From the regional article-XIV bodies, the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) decided at its 5th session held on 10-12 Oct 2016 to also report to the ERC, while the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has so far not made yet this formal agreement and will thus be presented as Information item. The Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is also presented as part of this section.

7. Information Notes: Documents under this section are presented for information and can be commented by the Members under Any other business. This section will include a document with the outcomes and recommendations of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). Members are also invited to propose topics for including under this section.

Annex 1

List of regional and global policy and regulatory topics covered at previous Regional Conferences for Europe

30th ERC - Antalya, Turkey, 4-6 May 2016 ([ERC/16/REP](#)):

1. The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia region
2. Pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia - International Year of Pulses 2016

29th ERC - Bucharest, Romania, 1-4 April 2014 ([ERC/14/REP](#)):

1. Food Losses and Waste in Europe and Central Asia
2. International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) in Europe and Central Asia

28th ERC - Baku, Azerbaijan, 16-20 April 2012 ([ERC/12/REP](#)):

1. Policies for Food Security in the Region: Challenges and Perspectives – Food outlook towards 2050

27th ERC - Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 May 2010 ([ERC/10/REP](#)):

1. Policy response to challenges in agriculture and rural development in the Europe and Central Asia Region: sharing experience and enhancing cooperation in the Region

26th ERC - Innsbruck, Austria, 26-27 June 2008 ([ERC/08/REP](#)):

1. FAO and adaptation to climate change in the European region
2. Promotion of traditional regional agricultural and food products: A further step towards sustainable rural development

25th ERC - Riga, Latvia, 8-9 June 2006 ([ERC/06/REP](#)):

1. Contribution of rural development in meeting the World Food Summit (WFS)/Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Region
2. The view of the European Region on the role of FAO as provider of global public goods
3. Strengthening Regional Cooperation and assisting countries in controlling Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Europe, including CIS countries

24th ERC - Montpellier, France, 5-7 May 2004 ([ERC/04/REP](#)):

1. Food Safety and Quality in Europe: Aspects concerning in particular quality, nutritional balance, the importance of agricultural land and cultural heritage (“terroirs”)
2. Agricultural Research: its role and contribution to sustainable rural development
3. Major European Programmes, Initiatives and Fora on Agricultural Research
4. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture in the Region: Focus on Rural Poverty