

DRAFT MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (LDAC)

Videoconference (owing to COVID-19)

Tuesday, 26 May 2020

11:30 – 13:30 h

Chair: Iván López van der Veen

Vice-Chairs: Béatrice Gorez, Juan Manuel Liria and Marc Ghiglia

Rapporteurs (Secretariat): Alexandre Rodríguez and Manuela Iglesias

1. Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, welcomes those present and gives a list of absent members that delegate powers to present members, as received by the Secretariat:

- Mr. Aivaras Labanauskas (Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association) delegates to Mr. Emil Remisz (NAPO)
- Ms. Anna Boulova (FRUCOM) delegates to Mr. Michel Goujon (ORTHONGEL)
- Mr. Anertz Muniategi (ANABAC) delegates to Mr. Javier Garat (CEPESCA)
- Ms. Caroline Mangalo (CNPMEM) delegates to Mr. Marc Ghiglia (UAPF)
- Mr. Gerard van Balsfoort (DFTPA) delegates to Mr. Javier Garat (CEPESCA)
- Ms. Juana Parada (ORPAGU) delegates to Mr. Francisco Portela (VIANAPESCA)
- Mr. Francisco Portela (VIANAPESCA), who will be absent during part of the meeting, delegates to Mr. Juan Manuel Liria (CEPESCA)

The list of attendees (including members and observers) is included in ANNEX I.

The Secretariat informs the members that, in conformity with the rules of procedure, the necessary quorum for adoption of decisions is reached, since at least 50% of the total number of members are present or represented.

2. Reading and approval of the agenda.

The presented agenda is approved with no changes to it.

3. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly meeting - Sopot (Poland), 22-5-2019

The minutes of the previous General Assembly held in Sopot, Poland, on 22 May 2019 are approved with no comments or amendments.

4. Annual ratification of the LDAC Chair.

This item was not dealt with due to lack of time.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: The Chair's term of office is valid for three years, having covered one year of his second term, with annual ratification having a voluntary nature.

5. Report by the Chair/Secretariat on financial year 14 (1 June 2020 - 31 May 2021)

5.1. Strategic Plan/Annual Work Programme

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, explains the strategic plan together with the annual work programme for financial year 14.

Full presentation available on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/2Rev_LDAC_Presentation_GA_26.05.20.pdf

DECISION:

The members of the General Assembly approve the strategic plan for Financial Year 14.

With the approval of the General Assembly, the process is concluded and the strategic plan is considered formally adopted in conformity with provisions set forth in articles XIII and XV, section a) of the LDAC rules of procedure.

5.2. Provisional calendar of meetings.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, informs that face-to-face plenary meetings are foreseen for Working Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 in October in Brussels; and that the ExCom meeting will take place in November in Brussels or in Madrid. The final decision on these meetings may be reviewed and will depend on the epidemiological development and healthcare recommendations regarding the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The possibility that virtual meetings continue to be regularly held both at Working Group and Focus Group level to adapt to the new circumstances is under consideration, following recommendations made by ExCom members.

The complete calendar of meetings is made available to all members in the following presentation:

https://ldac.eu/images/2Rev_LDAC_Presentation_GA_26.05.20.pdf

5.3. Approval/ratification of items 1-2.

The members of the General Assembly ratify the previous two items

The specific presentation, made by the Secretariat with sections under item 5 (from slide 13 onwards), may be found on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/2Rev_LDAC_Presentation_GA_26.05.20.pdf

6. Report by the Secretariat on administration and finances:

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, on behalf of the Chair and of the Executive Committee, presents a summary of the work carried out by the organisation during Financial Year 13 (1 June 2019 - 31 May 2020) regarding the programme and summarising actions and agreements achieved. In addition, a list of letters, recommendations and advice adopted in the financial year is provided.

No additional comments are made by the members.

6.1. State of annual accounts (income/expenditure) in Year 13 (2019-2020)

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, gives a detailed presentation breaking down the accounts and the list of income received and expenditure spent by the LDAC, as well as a timeline for procedural actions still pending.

He then informs that all organisations are up to date with payment of fees, except for BLOOM and the Lithuanian Fisheries Producers Association. These two organisations have not answered to repeated notifications and warnings, so they are going to be withdrawn as members of LDAC as of 1 June 2020.

Besides, attendees are informed that all Member States are up to date with payment of fees except for Italy (that has confirmed that it will pay very soon), and United Kingdom that is waiting to see how Brexit negotiations evolve.

Moreover, the European Commission has already paid the first two parts of their contribution (EUR 240,000). The remaining balance of up to a maximum amount of EUR 60,000 will be settled and paid once the final year report is distributed and the account audit certificate is presented.

Once the accounts of the current year are presented, it is proposed that the Assembly should give a vote of confidence to the accounts presented, with the final accounts sent once the year is over (31 May 2020).

DECISION:

Both the annual report and the amendment to the annual accounts of Year 13 of the LDAC are approved by the members of the General Assembly by consensus and without objections, and the Secretariat is urged to complete the administrative and procedural steps required to close the financial year.

6.2. Budget proposal for Financial Year 14 (2020-2021)

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, informs about the new budget for financial year 14, period from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021. The draft budget has been sent in writing to all members of the ExCom for adoption via e-mail and to all members of the GA prior to the meeting. The Secretariat is now waiting to receive the new contract from the European Commission to sign it.

Then, he informs that the EC has reviewed the subsidy amounts for each and every one of the Advisory Councils, and the LDAC has been awarded a maximum amount of EUR 350,000 for this year (upon request and appropriate supporting evidence of the need of the expense). This means an increase of EUR 50,000 compared to previous years.

After the presentation of the draft budget proposal is made by the General Secretary and approved by the ExCom in good time and appropriate manner, the Chair recommends that the General Assembly should ratify this draft budget for the following financial year. Attendees are reminded that, as in previous years, the proposal presented is a minimum budget based on the income actually received and/or committed in conformity with the principle of budgetary prudence and provisions set forth in the Financial Regulation of the Commission.

Similarly to previous years, the budget will be adjusted depending on the income received during the year and the items will be balanced with the expenses.

DECISION:

The members of the General Assembly approve the operational budget for financial year 14 by consensus.

6.3. List of new members and members withdrawn from the LDAC.

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, explains that the LDAC has currently 56 member organisations, and three of them have requested to be withdrawn:

- BirdLife International
- Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association
- Scottish White Fish Producers Association Limited

It is pointed out that, owing to the withdrawal of BirdLife, there would be an available seat at the Executive Committee under the category “other groups of interest”.

Then, he informs about the request to join as a new member of the following organisation:

- Puerto de Celeiro S.A.

6.4. Acceptance of new LDAC members

After consulting with the European Commission and the rest of Member States in good time and appropriate manner and not receiving any objection, the decision for this candidate organisation to join in as a new member of the LDAC is subject to the General Assembly.

DECISION:

The members of the General Assembly approve by consensus to allow the organisation requesting to join in, Puerto de Celeiro, to become a fully-fledged member of the LDAC.

6.5. Approval/ratification of items 1-4.

DECISION: The members of the GA unanimously approve the previous items (6.1-6.4)

7. LDAC Performance Review Phase 2: Presentation of the main recommendations issued by the external consultant (BG Sea Consulting) and launching of the publication.

Mr. Benoit Guerin, BG Sea Consulting, gives a presentation about the LDAC performance review phase 2, mainly based on three specific aspects:

1. International cooperation practices with EU institutions and agencies (European Commission, European Parliament Committee on Fisheries, European Fisheries Control Agency, etc.), administrations of EU Member States and international intergovernmental organisations (RFMOs - NAFO, ICCAT and IOTC; FAO; ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT, etc.).
2. Communications policy and public relations strategy.
3. Gender issues relating to fisheries and cooperation policies for EU development (including gender balance and equity within SFPAs).

The complete document is available on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/FINAL_PerformanceReview_II_v5.2_compressed_26_05_2020.pdf

The Chair thanks and congratulates Mr. B. Guerin, highlighting the importance of this report that will serve as a roadmap to improve LDAC performance aspects and strategic approach.

The General Secretary informs the members that the report is available online. In addition, a paper copy will be printed and distributed in the next face-to-face meetings.

Following the questions and suggestions made by the members, it is decided that it might be important to develop performance indicators to measure quality and effectiveness regarding the level of compliance of the objectives included in the work programme.

8. LDAC Communications Policy

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, explains the possibility of developing a communications strategy for the LDAC based on the recommendation issued in the performance review report just presented. He recalls that there is already a draft that was presented at the 2017 GA for the first time, but that was never adopted. He suggests sending a query about this document to all members with an updated draft of the strategic communications plan. No comments or objections are received.

DECISION: The Secretariat will distribute an updated draft of the strategic plan among ExCom members in the second half of 2020 for comments and adoption, if appropriate.

9. Closure of the meeting:

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, informs that the General Assembly to be held in May 2021 will take place in Berlin, COVID-19 permitting. He then closes the session thanking the members and observers for their attendance and active participation; the interpreting team for their work throughout the meeting; the support and technical staff of the interpreting platform hired (VoiceBoxer) for solving technical connection and streaming problems during the meeting, and the Secretariat for all the work in terms of logistics, organisation and content in preparation for this meeting.

The annual ordinary session of the General Assembly is officially closed.

ANNEX I. List of participants
Long Distance Advisory Council General Assembly
26 May 2020 via videoconference

MEMBERS

1. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Béatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
3. Emil Remisz. NAPO
4. Juan Manuel Liria. CEPESCA
5. Javier Garat/ Rocío Béjar. CEPESCA
6. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
7. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
8. Francisco Mari. Bread for the World
9. Gerard van Balsfoort. Dutch Pelagic Freezer Trawler Association.
10. Julien Daudu. EJF
11. Raúl García. WWF SPAIN
12. Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL
13. Marc Ghiglia. CNPMM/UAPF
14. Despina Symons/ Jacopo Pasquero. EBCD
15. Erik Olsen. Danish Society for a Living Sea
16. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen. Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation
17. Justine Guiny. Birdlife International
18. Julio Morón. OPAGAC/AGAC
19. Juan Manuel Trujillo. European Transport Federation
20. David Troncoso. ANASCO
21. Yaiza Dronkers. International Pole & Line Foundation
22. Felicidad Fernández. ANFACO-CECOPECA
23. Sean O Donoghue. KFO
24. Sara Fröcklin. Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
25. Jane Sandell. NFFO/FPO
26. Edelmiro Ulloa. Anapa, Anamer, Agarba and Acemix
27. Francisco Portela Rosa. VIANAPESCA
28. José Manuel Fernández Beltrán/Sergio López. OPP Lugo
29. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPECHE
30. Andrea Ripol. Seas at Risk
31. Haydeé Fernández. CONXEMAR
32. Katarina Sipic. AIPCE

OBSERVERS

33. Benoit Guerin. BG Sea Consulting
34. Eduardo Míguez. Puerto de Celeiro S.A.
35. Pedro Reis. Market Advisory Council
36. Jesús Iborra. European Parliament – PECH Secretariat
37. Carlos Ossorio. Secretariat General for Fisheries. Spain
38. Mónica Corrales. Secretariat General for Fisheries. Spain
39. Amaia Silanes. Secretariat General for Fisheries. Spain
40. Mariana Toussaint. FAO
41. Marcio Castro De Souza. FAO
42. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
43. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC
44. Marta de Lucas. LDAC