



AGENDA

37th meeting of LDAC Working Group 5 - HORIZONTAL ISSUES

Wednesday 11th March 2026, afternoon session 14:00-17:00h CET

Thursday 12th March 2026, morning session 09:00-12:30h CET

Venue: Hotel Martin's Brussels EU Hotel

(Bvd. Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels)

AFTERNOON SESSION (Wednesday 11th March, 14:00h-17:00h)

14:00h

- 1. Welcome by the Chair**
- 2. Adoption of minutes of the last WG5 – 15-16 October 2025**
- 3. Adoption of the agenda**

14:15h

- 4. Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)**
 - 4.1- Overview of EU IUU carding process in relation to dialogues with non-EU countries: feedback by MARE on questions from members.

15:00h

- 4.2- Presentation on the EC Study on *"flag State responsibilities and 'open registers' for vessel registration"* (MARE Rep)
- 4.3- Presentation by OCEANA on the report: *"Flags of convenience and hidden ownership: EU-owned fishing vessels in high-risk jurisdictions"* (Vanya V.)
- 4.4- Next steps: ideas for drafting a LDAC advice on Flags of Convenience.

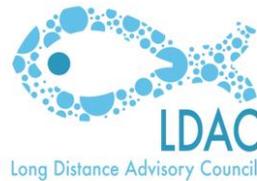
HEALTH BREAK 16:00-16:15h

16:15h

- 5. Implementation of revised Fisheries Control Systems in relation to external fleets**
 - 5.1- Update from MARE on state of play and next steps: timeline and process
 - 5.2- Feedback from LDAC on provisions related to the external fleet, particularly the CATCH IT system
 - 5.3- Way forward

17:00h

CLOSE OF THE FIRST SESSION



MORNING SESSION (Thursday 12th March, 09:00h-12:30h)

09:00h

6. Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and development of an Ocean Act

- 6.1- Update from DG MARE regarding the evaluation of the CFP regulation and the European Ocean Act
- 6.2- Presentation and exchange on "[A European Ocean Observation Initiative](#)"
- 6.3- Exchange of views and way forward

09:45h

7. EU strategy for fisheries external action: exchange of views with DG MARE

- 7.1- Report by Chairs/Secretariat on outcomes of bilateral meeting with Director B MARE and his team (Madrid, 20 January 2026)
- 7.2- Update by Chair/Secretariat on process and timing for adoption of Communication: input of LDAC and next steps

10:00h

8. International Ocean Governance: Implementation of UN BBNJ

- 8.1- Update from DG MARE on calendar of meetings and policy developments made in the UN (Prep.Com3); and state of play of [EC proposal for a directive](#)
- 8.2- Discussion on LDAC draft advice on linkages and interaction between BBNJ and other international bodies including role of RFMOs

HEALTH BREAK 10:45-11:00h

11:00h

9. Draft advice on Impacts of Climate Change in non-EU fisheries

11:15h

10. Social Dimension of CFP and labour issues linked to import and trade

- 10.1- Presentation on **ITF investigative report on** [Labour Exploitation in Distant Water Fishing Vessels Registered With the SPRFMO: | ITF Global](#)
- 10.2- EC report on [proposals to amend the due diligence Directive](#)
- 10.3- EC update on the [Forced Labour Regulation](#) (expert group on forced labour...)
- 10.4- Presentation "[Hands for the oceans](#)" (OPAGAC)
- 10.5- Update on EU Social Partners project – Pillars of the Sea IV

12:15h

11. Report from Secretariat on:

- FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (Iceland, 23-27 Feb)
- High-level conference ETP in EU Fisheries and Aquaculture (Bru, 17 Feb. 2026)
- Date and agenda of next EFCA Advisory Board (Vigo, April)

12:30

CLOSING REMARKS