

MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (first part) LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (LDAC)

Videoconference (owing to COVID-19)

Tuesday, 11 May 2021

10:00 – 11:30 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: approval of the agendas and the minutes.

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:

- Ms. Katarina Sipic, AIPCE, delegates to Mr. Pierre Commere, EUROTHON/FIAC.
- Mr. Erik Olsen, The Danish Society, delegates to Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE.
- Mr. Francisco Portelarosa, VIANAPESCA, delegates to Mr. Luis Vicente, ADAPI.
- Ms. Anna Boulova, FRUCOM, delegates to Mr. Michel Goujon, ORTHONGEL.
- Ms. Rebeca Díez, CONXEMAR, delegates to Mr. Juan Carlos Martín Fragueiro, OP ANACEF.

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.

1.1. Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly meeting held on 26 May 2020

The minutes of the previous General Assembly meeting held on 26 May 2020 are approved with no comments or amendments.

1.2. Approval of the agendas of both sessions (1st and 2nd part)

The agendas of both General Assembly sessions (11 and 12 May) are approved.

N.B. Because of time limitations, it is agreed to move the whole item 5 from the agenda of 11 May to that of 12 May.

2. Report by the Chair/Secretary on LDAC Financial Year 15 (1 June 2021 – 31 May 2022)

2.1. Strategic Plan/Annual Work Programme.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, explains the strategic plan together with the annual work programme for financial year 15.

Ms. Béatrice Gorez, CFFA-CAPE, makes a suggestion which is subsequently accepted by the rest of the members and leads to the following **DECISION** being agreed:

- **The work programme is adopted with the request to include a reference to the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy.**

Full presentation available on the following link:

https://ldac.eu/images/ok_LDAC_Presentation_GA_11.05.21.pdf

DECISION:

The members of the General Assembly approve the strategic plan for Financial Year 15.

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.

2.2. Provisional calendar of meetings.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, informs that meetings are foreseen for Working Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 in September and October; and that the ExCom meeting will take place in November.

The possibility of holding mixed meetings (virtual and face-to-face) is considered depending on the evolution of the pandemic.

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

https://ldac.eu/images/ok_LDAC_Presentation_GA_11.05.21.pdf

2.3. Ratification/approval of items 1-2.

The members of the General Assembly ratify the previous two items

3. 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 14 (1 June 2019 - 31 May 2020) regarding the programme and summarising actions and agreements achieved. In addition, a list of letters and advice adopted in the financial year is provided.

3.1. State of annual accounts (income/expenditure) in Year 14 (2020-2021)

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).

3.2. Budget proposal for LDAC Financial Year 15 (2021-2022)

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, informs about the new budget for financial year 15, period from 01 June 2021 to 31 May 2022. 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 (30 March). The Secretariat is now waiting to receive the new contract from the European Commission to sign it.

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. The European Commission shall be duly informed.

3.3. Approval/ratification of items 1-2.

The financial report with updated accounts for year 14 and the new budget proposal for year 15 were approved and ratified by unanimity with no comments or amendments.

4. Overview of LDAC membership:

4.1. Withdrawal of LDAC members.

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, explains that the LDAC General Assembly currently has 49 member organisations, after the withdrawal of three organisations (two of them as a result of Brexit):

- France Nature Environment (FNE)
- The National Federation of Fishermen's Organizations (NFFO)
- UK Fish Producer Organization (FPO)

Then, information is given regarding the Executive Committee. Out of the 25 seats, there are currently two vacancies: one in the fisheries sector (60%) as a result of Brexit (NFFO) and 1 seat available in OIG (40%) owing to Birdlife's withdrawal last year. Therefore, an election shall be held for the Executive Committee as a whole at the end of the 3-year mandate next year (May 2022).

4.2. Admission of new LDAC members

The General Secretary, Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, informs that there are three organisations that have requested to become LDAC members:

- The Pew Charitable Trusts ("Pew")
- Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)
- Earthworm Foundation on behalf of Tuna Protection Alliance (TUPA)

Requests were distributed among the members of the Executive Committee on 30 March with all the necessary documentation, after having been sent to the MS in a wide consultation and after having informed the Commission.

Then, the candidate organisations make a presentation about their organisations, which are available on the following links:

[https://ldac.eu/images/The Gobal Tuna Alliance Presentation GA.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/The_Gobal_Tuna_Alliance_Presentation_GA.pdf)

[https://ldac.eu/images/TUPA Presentation for LDAC general assembly.pdf](https://ldac.eu/images/TUPA_Presentation_for_LDAC_general_assembly.pdf)

After the presentations, the members discuss the possible admission of the three organisations that have presented their candidacy to be part of the LDAC, taking the following **DECISION**:

- The three new organisations are ratified as members, after receiving the approval of the MS and with no reasoned objections put forward by the Executive Committee.

The new member organisations are: Global Tuna Alliance (GTA); Earthworm Foundation on behalf of Tuna Protection Alliance (TUPA) and The Pew Charitable Trust (European office).

- As for the category where these members should be included, the LDAC will wait for the DG MARE proposal to be adopted which will modify the Delegated Regulation on the functioning of

Advisory Councils. This will provide clearer guidelines to decide on the classification of two of the new mentioned members (i.e. GTA and TUPA) which are considered as “hybrid organisations” with mixed interests and representatives of both the fisheries sector and other interest groups.

This decision shall be adopted at the General Assembly planned for May 2022 at the latest, but in the meantime, it shall not affect their condition of full members of the LDAC and their participation in LDAC meetings and consultations at General Assembly and Working Group level.

5. Update on administrative and organisational issues:

5.1. Annual ratification of the LDAC Chair.

5.2. Proposal for structure of Working Groups and Focus Groups.

5.3. Review and amendment of the LDAC Rules of Procedure: proposal for annex to the Code of conduct for virtual meetings (GA/EXCOM/WGs/FGs)

Because of time limitations, it is decided to move the whole item 5 to the second part of the General Assembly meeting to be held the following day, 12 May.

Closure of the meeting:

The Chair, Mr. Iván López, closes the session thanking the members and observers for their attendance and active participation; the interpreting team for their work throughout the meeting and the Secretariat for all the work in terms of logistics, organisation and content in preparation for this meeting.

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



List of attendees

Long Distance Advisory Council General Assembly 11 May 2021 via videoconference (First session)

MEMBERS

1. Iván López. AGARBA/CEPESCA
2. Béatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
3. Emil Remisz. NAPO
4. Juan Manuel Liria. CEPESCA
5. Javier Garat. CEPESCA
6. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
7. Gerard Van Balsfoort. DPFTA
8. Vanya Vulperhorst. OCEANA
9. Julien Daudu. EJF
10. Rocío Bejar. CEPESCA
11. Christine Adams. Seas at Risk
12. Michel Goujon. ORTHONGEL
13. Marc Ghiglia. CNPMMEM/UAPF
14. Sylvie Roux. CNPMMEM
15. Despina Symons. EBCD
16. Jacopo Pasquero. EBCD
17. Sara Fröcklin. Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
18. Juana Parada. ORPAGU
19. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF
20. David Troncoso. ANASCO
21. Aivaras Labanauskas. Lithuanian Long Distance Fisheries Association
22. Juan Carlos Martín Fragueiro. OP ANACEF
23. Ferenc Szalay. Confédération Internationale de la Peche Sportive- CIPS
24. Pierre Commere. FIAC/EUROTHON
25. Yaiza Dronkers. International Pole & Line Foundation
26. Edelmiro Ulloa. Anapa, Anamer, Agarba and Acemix
27. José Manuel F. Beltrán. OPP Lugo
28. Rosalie Tukker. EUROPECHE
29. Daniel Voces. EUROPECHE
30. Roberto Carlos Alonso. ANFACO-CECOPESCA
31. Mati Sarevet. EL DFA
32. Francisco Mari. BFW
33. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen. Danish Pelagic Producers Organisation
34. Raúl García. WWF
35. Xavier Leduc. UAPF

OBSERVERS

36. Jesús Iborra. EP
37. Paulus Tak. The Pew Charitable Trusts
38. Jean-Christophe Vandeveld. The Pew Charitable Trusts
39. Florie Hovine. Earthworm Foundation
40. Tom Pickerell. Global Tuna Alliance
41. Anna Gruszczynskar. Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation Poland
42. Sonia Doblado. Farfish
43. Alexandre Rodríguez. LDAC
44. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC
45. Marta de Lucas. LDAC