



Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia

Budapest, 18-19 May 2015

Proposal

for the Agenda of the 30th Regional Conference for Europe 2016 in Turkey

INTRODUCTION

1. The 30th Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) will be held from 2-6 May 2016 in Antalya, Turkey. The purpose of this paper is to present a "zero" draft agenda for the ERC based on the outcome of the 29th Session and suggestions by Members and the Secretariat.
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. In line with past practice, standing items related to Fisheries and Forestry Commissions are presented as Information Notes. 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, caution needed 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. This issue could eventually be proposed for ERC discussion and decision under the Governance item.
4. Annex 1 to this paper provides information on topics presented under the "Regional and global policy and regulatory" section at previous ERCs, while Annex 2 lists the proposed fisheries topics to be included as technical topics under the "Other matters" section including Information notes.
5. Members are invited to provide feedback on the "zero" draft agenda to feed into the provisional agenda to be dispatched to Members not less than 60 days in advance of the session as per standing procedures.

DRAFT AGENDA

I INTRODUCTORY ITEMS (standing items)

1. **Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur** (*for decision*)
2. **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable** (*for decision*)
3. **Statement by the Director-General**
4. **Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council**
5. **Statement by the Chairperson of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe**

The statement of the Chairperson of the 29th ERC will provide a brief overview on the outcome of the deliberations of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 6-13 June 2015) on matters related to the Europe and Central Asia Region.

II REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

6. **Review of the state of food and agriculture in the region** (*for discussion and decision*)
Various indicators and trends of food insecurity and malnutrition in the region will be analysed and discussed. Governments' actions in these areas, including those emanating from various global initiatives, as well as the FAO Conference will also be examined with a view to learning lessons and deriving best practices for the region.
7. **Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (in 2014-15) and update on its major workstreams** (*for discussion and decision*)

The CFS Chair will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 41st and 42nd Plenary Sessions reporting on activities undertaken in 2014-15.

The Chair will also highlight the main findings of the multi-stakeholder dialogue held on 2 May 2016 in Antalya. The session would be an opportunity to discuss how to improve the achievement of results in the context of SO1 results framework, by better disseminating CFS products at regional and national levels, improving collaboration with FAO decentralized offices, and increasing CFS impact on the ground; as well as discussing with CFS stakeholders how to achieve these objectives within the SO1 results framework.

8. **Regional trade integration in the region** (*for discussion and decision*)

The paper will focus on the WTO Agreements and the three main Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs): European Union (EU), Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). The majority of countries are currently WTO members and some countries are in the process of accession to the WTO. Food security and improvement of market access to food in the region depend very much on whether the countries themselves are active players and parties in terms of international trade.

The paper will explore WTO commitments of the countries in the region and how free trade agreements and two economic unions in the region fit with them.

Providing FAO technical assistance on agricultural aspects is important for speeding up and completing WTO accession and to ensure the formation and functioning of regional trade blocks in compliance with WTO. The paper will outline the support being provided to countries in this area through the Regional Initiative on Agrifood Trade and Regional Integration and provide suggestions for enhancements.

9. **The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in the Europe and Central Asia region – Monitoring and implementation in the region** *(for discussion and decision)*

The paper will cover the issues from an agricultural and rural development perspective in Europe and Central Asia and the requirements for policy actions in agriculture and rural development governance.

The paper would outline the current situation regarding the implementation/requirements for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national level and particularly requirements and awareness-raising of authorities governing agriculture and the rural sector, as part of the post-2015 development agenda.

It will propose policy recommendations for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs related to agriculture and review suggestions for FAO's role and work in this context.

10. **Fostering an enabling environment for the empowerment of rural poor for attaining food security and poverty reduction goals in agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia** *(for discussion and decision)*

The paper will discuss the major inequalities and obstacles faced by rural poor for improved food security, nutrition and rural poverty reduction in Europe and Central Asia. Its purpose will be to call member countries' attention on measures to tackle inequalities hindering food security, nutrition and poverty reduction; and urge them to renew their commitment to creating a comprehensive policy and institutional environment for rural poor, including equal access and benefit from productive resources, services and income-generating opportunities as crucial elements in the fight against food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty.

III PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

11. **Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Regional Conference will consider ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO's country offices network in the region to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

12. **Results of and Priorities for FAO’s work in the Region** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Regional Conference will consider the results of FAO’s work in the region, including through the Regional Initiatives, and provide guidance on priorities areas of work for 2016-17 and beyond under the Organization’s Medium Term Plan.

IV OTHER MATTERS

13. **FAO Governance in the Region** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms ([C 2015/26 Rev.1](#)) reviewed by the FAO Conference in June 2015 includes a number of recommendations and suggestions related to the work of Regional Conferences. The Secretariat will present the relevant recommendations and suggestions to the ERC, along with the actions required (and those already taken) to implement them.

14. **Standing item: Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)** *(for discussion and decision)*

The Chair of the 39th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), which takes place on 22-23 September 2015 in Budapest, will provide a summary report from the deliberations of the sessions.

15. **Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW)** *(for discussion and decision)*

The 29th Regional Conference noted that the MYPOW needs better, measurable indicators and targets in order to be a genuine results-based tool, and as such an efficient means of improving the functioning of the ERC. The Conference urged REU, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the ECA and in consultation with the members of ERG, to make further improvements in the next MYPOW for the period 2016-19.

16. **Standing item: Date, Place and Main Theme(s) of the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Europe** *(for decision)*

17. **Any other business¹**

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Regional Conference

The draft Report, introduced by the Rapporteur, will be reviewed and discussed for endorsement.

Closure of the Conference

¹ If they wish, delegates may comment on information notes under “Any other business”.

INFORMATION NOTES

Standing item: Report from regional forestry commissions

The outcomes and recommendations of the joint session of the 38th European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 72nd UNECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry, which took place on 2-6 November 2015 in Engelberg, Switzerland, will be presented.

Standing item: Reports from regional fisheries commissions

The outcomes and recommendations of the 28th session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) which took place on 17-19 June 2015 in Lillehammer, Norway will be presented.

The outcomes and recommendations of the 4th session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) which took place on 18-20 May 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia will be presented.

The outcomes and recommendations of the 39th session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) which took place on 25-29 May 2015 in Milan, Italy will be presented.

International Year of Pulses (IYP) in Europe and Central Asia

The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2016 as the International Year Pulses (IYP) ([A/RES/68/231](#)) and nominated FAO to facilitate the implementation in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The secretariat will provide a background paper regarding the activities related to IYP and heightening awareness of nutritional benefits at the country level as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition (proposed Regional Initiative 3). The member countries may, under this item, present their views in order to agree on a common position for the Region to facilitate FAO's further work in this context, in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020

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

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

23rd ERC - Nicosia, Cyprus, 29-31 May 2002 ([ERC/02/REP](#)):

1. Food Safety and Quality
2. Sustainable management of land and water resources: combating desertification and prevention of land degradation

Annex 2

Lists of proposed fisheries topics

One of the following proposed topics could be selected to be included as a technical topic under the Information notes section on fisheries commission:

1. **Decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture for sustainable Blue Growth**

With particular emphasis on (i) ratification and implementation of ILO Convention C188, (ii) promotion of FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and (iii) advancement of decent work agenda in aquaculture.

2. **Advancing Aquaculture Multi-stakeholder Platforms**

As promoted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean ([GFCM](#)) to engage the participation of a wider stakeholder community in the sustainable development of a Mediterranean aquaculture industry.

3. **Aquaculture biosecurity governance and implementation of aquatic animal health protection systems**

FIRA has been implementing a series of capacity building activities [national TCP and regional TCP] covering Western Balkan countries on this theme during the last 10 years.