

165th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 7.3 - Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (2-4 November 2020)

Member Name	Comments
European Union – Member (Thursday 26/11/2020 15:55)	<p>The EU and its Member States thank the Republic of Uzbekistan and FAO’s Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for organising the first regional conference ever to be held in a virtual format. We are grateful that the Conference took place in such an inclusive manner as well as in a cooperative and amicable atmosphere, despite the challenges created by the current pandemic situation. As a further improvement for the organisation of the next European Regional Conference we suggest that the procedure of drafting the report is adjusted to the methods of the FAO Council and its governing bodies, meaning that after each agenda item a chair’s summary should be presented to delegations for consideration.</p> <p>We convey particular thanks to Dr Agnes Kalibata, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), for taking the time to present valuable information on the Summit to the Members of the region, highlighting key priorities and expectations for the Summit’s outcome. We would have appreciated if more time would have been dedicated for the discussion.</p> <p>We also want to take this opportunity to thank FAO and its Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for their work in the region over the last biennium, and in particular for their efforts in fighting the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic so as to remain on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.</p> <p>The EU and its Member States welcome the decisions taken by the Conference in a cooperative and amicable atmosphere. We appreciate the commitment of the Members of the region expressed during the Conference, in particular with regard to: the transformation towards sustainable and resilient food systems and sustainable healthy diets, taking into account the One Health Approach and specific measures to counter the impacts of COVID-19; the UNFSS; youth, employment and the development of rural areas and the focus on nature-based solutions, Agroecology and other innovative approaches; preventing and reducing food waste and losses.</p> <p>Lastly, recalling Conference Resolution 4/2015 on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), as reaffirmed in 2019 by Conference Resolution 6/2019, we very much value the commitment of the Members of the region to the One Health approach and the fight against AMR, including through the phasing out of the use of antibiotics as growth promoters, and we request that this be duly reflected in the Council’s report.</p>
Spain – Member (Thursday 26/11/2020 16:48)	<p>With regard to the 32nd session of the Regional Conference for Europe, held in Tashkent, 2–4 November 2020, we would like to highlight the following:</p> <p>We wish to express our full support for the involvement of the European Union (EU) and its Member States.</p> <p>We thank the Government of Uzbekistan and the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) for their excellent work in organizing a conference, which had to be virtual as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their coordination and</p>

	<p>efficiency has considerably mitigated the negative consequences arising from not being able to hold such a high-level meeting in person, as would have been desirable.</p> <p>We welcome the decisions adopted by the Conference and the Members' commitment to certain issues addressed at the Conference, in particular:</p> <p>The need for resilient and sustainable food systems given that, according to the data from the latest report on The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2020) and in respecting the environmental commitments of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, we have no other option but to continue promoting the transformation of food systems as key to accelerating progress in achieving the SDGs, as is being pursued by the EU with the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies within the overall framework of the European Green Deal;</p> <p>The explicit support given to young people and women as a cornerstone of any policy;</p> <p>The fight against lethal antibiotic resistance by progressively phasing out the use of antibiotics as growth promoters under the aforementioned objective of transforming food systems. All of this in the spirit of political consensus, in the knowledge that health, ecosystems, supply chains and consumption patterns are all interrelated under the ONE HEALTH concept; and</p> <p>Support for Research, Development and Innovation (R+D+I) in its broadest sense as a fundamental element in transforming food systems in support of the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, social and economic); not forgetting the important role that digitalization will play in the coming years, especially in rural areas.</p> <p>Finally, we very much appreciate the fact that this FAO Regional Conference for Europe was held to the benefit of intra-regional collaboration in a group that is characterized by its productive, social, cultural and economic diversity.</p>
<p>Dominican Republic – Member (Thursday 26/11/2020 17:18)</p>	<p>The Dominican Republic [a] expresses its appreciation of the document that has been presented, [b] welcomes the specific recommendations and [c] congratulates FAO and the host government for organizing this session, which was successfully held online as a result of the obstacles presented by the pandemic.</p>