Proposal for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure European Commission on Agriculture

This proposal is brought forward in order for the ECA Rules of Procedure to reflect the current practices and situation as well as gender equality.

1. Rule I. paragraph 2, line 4: “...in his country.” to be replaced by “... in his/her country.”
2. Rule II. paragraph 1, lines 1-2: “The Commission shall elect a Chairperson, a first Vice-Chairperson and a second Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives...” to be replaced by “The Commission shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons...”, Lines 5-6: “The Chairperson shall be not eligible for re-election thereafter, provided that the first Vice-Chairperson shall be eligible for election as Chairperson” to be replaced by “The Chairperson shall be not eligible for re-election thereafter, provided that one or both of the Vice-Chairpersons shall be eligible for election as Chairperson”,
3. Rule II. paragraph 2, line 1: “The Chairperson, or in his absence...” to be replaced by “The Chairperson, or in his/her absence...”,
4. Rule III. paragraph 1, line 11: “....If due to incapacity, death or any other reason a member of the Executive Committee is prevented from exercising her/his functions for the remainder of the term, the Permanent Representation to the Organization of the member concerned shall inform the Secretary of the Commission as soon as possible, and may designate a substitute representative for the remainder of the term.”
   - Why is it may and not shall?
   - What happens if a substitute is not designated?
   - Are the RoP respected if the composition of the Executive Committee is not in line with Rule III, paragraph 1, lines 1-3? “The ExCom shall be composed of the Chairperson, the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission as ex officio members and six other members elected by the Commission from among the representatives”
   - Can FAO Legal Office confirm that the RoP are respected if “may” remains in the text? If it cannot be confirmed, a proposal for a new language would be welcome.
5. Rule III. paragraph 3, lines 10-11“...The Executive Committee shall meet whenever the Commission holds a session.” to be replaced by “...The Executive Committee shall meet within 30 days from the Session of the Commission”. This would give more flexibility to the ExCom to make the arrangements for its first meeting.
6. Rule III. new paragraph 6: “A majority of the members of the ExCom shall constitute a quorum.” The same language is used in Rule IV, paragraph 7, regarding the holding of the sessions of ECA. It would be useful to add it.