



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## TWENTY-SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Innsbruck, Austria, 26-27 June 2008

### PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

#### I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur:  
*for decision*
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable: *for decision* (ERC/08/1 Rev.1 and  
ERC/08/INF/2 Rev.1)

#### II. STATEMENTS

4. Statement by the Director-General (ERC/08/INF/4)
5. Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council

#### III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

6. Main conclusions and recommendations stemming from the debate in the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture on "The role of FAO in knowledge exchange and capacity building in the Europe and Central Asia Region" (ERC/08/LIM/1) and "FAO's Engagement in the United Nations System Reforms" (ERC/08/LIM/2)
7. Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2006-07 with a focus on the achievement of the World Food Summit targets and the Millennium Development Goals, and future priorities: *for discussion and decision* (ERC/08/2)
8. Matters arising from the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference: *for information* (ERC/08/INF/7)
9. Global and Regional Emergency Issues: *for information* (ERC/08/INF/8)

## MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

10. FAO and adaptation to climate change in the European region: *for discussion and decision* (ERC/08/3 and ERC/08/3 Sup.1)

Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development in the European region will face many challenges over the coming years such as international competition, further liberalization of trade policy and population decline in rural areas. Climate change will add to these pressures and will make the challenges more difficult and costly. The projected climate changes will affect crop yields, livestock management and location of production with important risks for farm income and land abandonment in certain parts of the region.

In the European region, policies in support of agriculture, forestry and rural development play an important role in food production, the maintenance of rural landscapes and the provision of environmental services. Timely adjustments to these policies could provide opportunities to examine how to better integrate adaptation to climate change in agriculture support programmes. It should for instance be considered how to promote good farming practices which are compatible with the new climatic conditions and which contribute proactively to preserving and protecting the environment.

FAO, through its multidisciplinary expertise in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, could facilitate an integrated approach to climate change adaptation of farmers, scientists and policy makers. Adaptation measures and options where FAO has a comparative advantage include rural areas and household livelihoods; national policies in agriculture, forestry and fisheries; and national and regional assessments for food security.

11. Promotion of traditional regional agricultural products and food: A further step towards sustainable rural development: *for discussion and/or decision* (ERC/08/4)

In numerous regions in Europe, local cultivation practices, including processing of regional and local agricultural products, have been transmitted by the farmers from generation to generation. They have consequently assisted in preserving the typical landscape and local traditions as well as developing economic activities in rural areas.

In the past few decades, there has been a growing interest in, and demand for, traditional regional agricultural products by consumers. However, there has also been an increase in endangered zones as a consequence of growing settlement pressure and an expansion of infrastructures and tourism, the latter necessitating the introduction of policies and measures to fight against natural hazards threatening not only the local communities, their settlements and traffic routes, but also their economic activities.

FAO could provide assistance in the production, processing and promotion of traditional agricultural products and food by supporting small-scale processing, formation of producer associations with a focus on developing the cooperation between agricultural production, agribusiness, tourism and restaurants and local trade as a contribution to mitigating the effects of rural out migration and supporting sustainable rural development. FAO could also facilitate twinning activities between regions in Europe and Central Asia related to capacity-building, providing a forum for discussion, and exchange of information and experience.

**IV. OTHER MATTERS**

12. Date, Place and Main Theme(s) of the Twenty-seventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe: *for decision*
13. Any other business
14. Adoption of the Report
15. Closure of the Conference