

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

39/7 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

21 April 2023

(Online meeting)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chairperson of the ECA (Mr Marios GEORGIADES) opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Executive Committee (the ExCom) to the seventh meeting after the 42nd Session of the ECA. Mr GEORGIADES thanked the ECA Secretariat and Colleagues in REU for the preparation of the meeting documents.

2. Adoption of the agenda¹

Mr WŁODARCZYK proposed an item under the AOB. He raised the issue of the possible dates of the 44th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture to be held in 2025. The meeting agenda was adopted with this additional item.

The adopted meeting agenda is presented in Annex 2.

3. Impact of the war in Ukraine on food security and related matters²

This item was presented by Mr Raimund JEHLE. In his presentation, Mr JEHLE updated the ExCom on the FAO Response Programme for Ukraine in 2023 and introduced the three pillars of the programme: 1) Restoring food security and self-sufficiency in frontline communities; 2) Restoring critical agricultural production and value chains; 3) Restoring critical agri-food system services. He also gave an overview on the needs assessment done by FAO, as well as about the assessment of damages and losses in the aquaculture/fishery and forestry sectors. Details are provided in the attached PPT.

In the discussion, the following points were raised:

Ms KRAMOLISOVA briefly informed the participants of the meeting on the current situation in Slovakia in relation to the impacts of the war in Ukraine.

Mr JILEK and Ms POPANDONOVA expressed their appreciation for the continuous work done by FAO and the Regional Office in relation to the situation in Ukraine.

Mr CHAROUTOUNIAN asked about the quality and safety indicators of the grains and other products produced in Ukraine and coming to Europe.

Mr JEHLE indicated that to answer the question on the quality issues and to be able to give a clear overview on this, more information and data needs to be collected.

ACTION: The Secretariat to circulate Mr JEHLE's presentation among the ExCom members.

¹ The draft agenda is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc5937en/cc5937en.pdf>

² Background information for this agenda item is available at <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc4655en>

4. Review and recommendations on the REU work programme 2022-2023 in a selected technical area

Assessing damage and loss attributed to the disasters on crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and aquaculture (Regional Initiative 3)

In her presentation, Ms Daniela MANGIONE gave details on FAO's methodology, developed in 2016 for the assessment of damage and loss in the agricultural sector. With that methodology, disasters can be measured in relation to crops, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, taking into consideration the specificities of each sub-sectors and two main components: the production and the assets. She underlined that the Regional Office has been and is very active in promoting the use of the methodology by the Members of the region. She also mentioned the digital tools that are available to get an overview and to learn the usage of the methodology.

Details are provided in the attached PPT.

In the discussion, the following points were raised:

Ms POPANDONOVA raised the issue if the presented methodology was in line with and reflecting the results and outcomes of the regional project on disaster risk reduction in the Western Balkans and if after doing the analysis, support and concrete interventions were also part of the follow-up activities. She mentioned the usefulness of the methodology and offered help in organizing another occasion when the practical guide and the digital tools could be presented.

Mr JILEK asked if there was a possibility to access the digital tool mentioned. He was interested about the further steps, developments foreseen with regard to the methodology and the work, and had some questions in relation to the real operation/implementation of the method, the countries involved in the project, and whether it has already been used in Ukraine.

Mr GEORGIADES was interested in examples where the assessment methodology was applied and asked about the usage of the damage and loss assessment digital solution software in the region.

Ms MANGIONE reacted to the issues raised:

- In relation to the ongoing project in the Western Balkans and the utility of the methodology detailed in the presentation she said that there was a need for update of the already existing data and information on damage and loss assessment in this particular region.
- On the number of countries she said that the methodology has been presented to all 17 program countries of FAO in the Europe and Central Asia region. However next steps can be taken only on request or if there is an interest from the countries' side. Some concrete work has been done in Albania, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, North Macedonia and a request arrived from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The password protected link to access the digital tool can be shared with those interested.
- The methodology has been used in Ukraine as well.

ACTION: The Secretariat to circulate the presentation among the ExCom members.

6. Preparation of the 43rd Session of the ECA (26-28 Sep 2023)

Mr WŁODARCZYK presented the background document for this agenda item. He mentioned the guidance of the FAO Legal Counsel on the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the ECA. He presented the updated draft annotated agenda of the 43rd ECA Session prepared by the Regional Office.

Mr GEORGIADES recommended a sentence for revision in the paragraph related to the multiple crises topic, where reference is made to countries but those listed are mainly sub-regions.

In relation to the multiple crisis paragraph, Ms POPANDONOVA asked for explanation regarding the type of measures and support given by FAO to the countries that were indicated as the most vulnerable.

Mr WŁODARCZYK gave an update on the preparation of the background documents for the 43rd ECA Session and also emphasized efforts taken by the Secretariat in order to monitor their timely preparation.

Mr WŁODARCZYK continued with the amendment of the Rules of Procedure and the elections to be held during the 43rd ECA Session.

The ExCom noted the recommendations of the Legal Office on the amendment of the ECA Rules of Procedure.

ACTION: The Secretariat to make appropriate adjustments to the text of the draft annotated agenda.

7. Updates to the ExCom Information Document

Mr WŁODARCZYK introduced the updates recommended for the ExCom Information Document and explained that when approved, it will be posted as a stand-alone document, in a .pdf format.

Mr GEORGIADES raised attention on being consistent when using “Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia” or “REU”. He also felt that the term “FAO representations in the Region” used in the text was not fully clear and could be confused with permanent representations of Members. The ExCom suggested that instead reference be made to “FAO offices and representations”. Finally, he mentioned the procedure of the adoption and publication of the minutes of the ExCom meetings and requested the Secretariat to keep the timeframe as incorporated in the ExCom Information Document. The ExCom requested that the sequence of reviews of the draft minutes be changed so that all participants of meetings receive the draft minutes for review at the same time, immediately after drafting the minutes by the ECA Secretariat.

The ExCom accepted the updates of the Information Document, but agreed that the updated version not be published until the discussion on possible revision of the procedure for the adoption and publication of the minutes is finalized.

ACTION: The Secretariat to send suggestions to the ExCom on the update of procedure of the adoption and publication of the meeting minutes before the next ExCom meeting in June.

The Secretariat to finalize the updated ExCom Information Document.

8. AOB

Under this agenda item, Ms HORVATH briefly informed the participants on the request to identify proposed preferred dates for the next 44th ECA Session to be held in 2025. She underlined that the proposed dates would serve for information and could be moved and changed later.

Mr GEORGIADES suggested 30 September - 2 October 2025 as the preferred dates for the ECA Session. There were no objections from the ExCom on the suggestion.

9. Closing of the meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting.

Annex 1

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE**39/7 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

21 April 2023

11.00-13.30 hrs (Rome time)

Online meeting

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Role	Country/Organization	Name	Present/Absent
1.	ECA Chairperson	Cyprus	Mr Marios GEORGIADES	Present
2.	ECA Vice-Chairperson	North Macedonia	Ms Lidija POPANDONOVA	Present
3.	ECA Vice-Chairperson	Russian Federation	Mr Kirill ANTYUKHIN	Present
4.	ExCom Member	Czechia	Mr Jiří JÍLEK	Present
5.	ExCom Member	Greece	Mr Serkos A. CHAROUTOUNIAN	Present
6.	ExCom Member	Hungary	Ms Evelin LANTOS	Present
7.	ExCom Member	Serbia	Ms Vedrana ILIĆ	Absent
8.	ExCom Member	Slovakia	Ms Terézia KRAMOLIŠOVÁ	Present
9.	ExCom Member	Uzbekistan	Mr Nuriddin KUSHNAZAROV	Present
11.	Regional Programme Leader	FAO REU	Mr Raimund JEHLE	Present
12.	Acting Secretary of ECA	FAO REU	Mr Piotr WŁODARCZYK	Present
13.	Field Programme Officer	FAO REU	Ms Daniela MANGIONE	Present
14.	Programme Coordination Specialist and Country Analyst	FAO REU	Ms Cholpon ESENBKOVA	Present
15.	Executive Programme Management Specialist	FAO REU	Ms Zsafia HORVÁTH	Present

Annex 2

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE**39/7 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

21 April 2023

11:00-13:30

Online (Zoom)

AGENDA

No.	Agenda Item Title	Document No./Link	Presenter
	Opening of the meeting	-	CHAIRPERSON
1.	Adoption of the agenda	ECA_ExCom/39/7-1	EXCOM
2.	Impact of the war in Ukraine on food security and related matters	ECA_ExCom/39/7-2	REGIONAL PROGRAMME LEADER
3.	Review and recommendations on the REU work programme 2022-2023 in a selected technical area: - Assessing damage and loss attributed to disasters on crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and aquaculture (Regional Initiative 3)	ECA_ExCom/39/7-3	Daniela MANGIONE (REU)
4.	Preparation of the 43rd Session of ECA (26-28 Sep 2023)	ECA_ExCom/39/7-4	ECA SECRETARY
5.	Updates to the ExCom Information Document	ECA_ExCom/39/7-5	ECA SECRETARY
6.	Any other business: - Dates for the 44th Session of the ECA (2025)	-	PARTICIPANTS
	Close of the meeting	-	CHAIRPERSON