



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 22 December 2020
(OR. en)

12691/20
ADD 1

AGRI 404
FAO 29

REPORT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (2 - 4 November 2020, virtual)
- Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights and final positions

Delegations will find in annex the Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights (Annex I) and the final positions of the EU and its Member States (Annex II) for the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (2 - 4 November 2020, virtual format).

The Declaration of Competence and Voting Rights and all positions were approved by the FAO Coordination Working Party by written procedure.

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE
Thirty-second Session
Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2-4 November 2020

Declaration of Competences and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union

I. Introductory Items

1. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteurs (*for decision*)
MS Competence - MS Vote
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (*for decision*)
MS Competence - MS Vote
3. Statement by the Director-General
4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)
6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
7. Statement by the Spokesperson for the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Consultation

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues

8. Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Diets in Europe and Central Asia (*For discussion and decision*)
Shared Competence - MS Vote
9. FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative: a New Approach (*for discussion*)
Shared Competence - MS Vote
10. Solutions for Youth, Employment and Developing Rural Areas in relation to the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (*for discussion*)
Shared Competence - MS Vote

III. Programme and Budget Matters

11. Decentralized Offices Network (*for discussion*)
Shared Competence - MS Vote
12. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Region (*for discussion*)
Shared Competence - MS Vote

13. Synthesis of FAO Evaluations 2014-2019 in Europe and Central Asia Region (*for discussion*)
Shared Competence - MS Vote

IV. Other Matters

14. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020-2023 of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) (*for discussion and decision*)
Shared Competence - MS Vote
15. Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 41st Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)
*Shared Competence - EU Vote**
16. Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the Joint Session of the 40th European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 77th UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)
Shared Competence - MS Vote
17. Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 30th Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)
Shared Competence - MS Vote
18. Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 6th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)
Shared Competence - MS Vote
19. Date and Place of the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe 20. Any other Business
MS Competence - MS Vote
20. Any other Business
Review and Endorsement of the Report of the Regional Conference
Shared Competence - MS Vote

** Certain matters dealt with under this point fall under MS vote.*



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 8: Sustainable food systems and healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. We thank the ERC Secretariat for the comprehensive background document setting out the urgent need to transform unsustainable food systems and promote sustainable ones while protecting our environment and climate, and while preserving biodiversity and natural resources. This will be key to provide sustainable livelihoods and inclusive socio-economic development in our region.
3. With only 5 years remaining in the **United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition**, and 10 years to 2030, the world is not on track to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). The **COVID-19** pandemic further threatens the achievement of these goals. The region is no exception in this, particularly in relation to the persistence of food insecurity and various forms of malnutrition.
4. Considering the increasing levels of malnutrition and obesity in the region, we call on FAO to work with regional and national coordinating mechanisms and bodies to analyse the status of current diets in the context of existing food systems and to support countries in defining policy measures and building capacities, including through the provisioning of statistics and analytical tools as well as by sharing best practices. Furthermore, we call on FAO to use this cooperation for developing a methodology to assess the sustainability of food systems.
5. In this regard, we welcome FAO's reference to the European Union's **Farm-to-Fork Strategy (F2F)** , which comprehensively addresses the challenges of sustainable food systems and recognises the links between food, healthy societies and a healthy planet. We acknowledge the fact that FAO's proposed policy recommendations for a transformative agenda in the region are well aligned with the Farm-to-Fork Strategy.
6. The European Union and its Member States support the implementation of a **food systems approach** that maximises the contribution to the three dimensions of sustainability while

addressing trade-offs across activities, actors and overall goals. We call on FAO to support governments and non-state actors, in particular the private sector, through the Regional Initiatives, to develop, refine and implement the transformative agenda towards sustainable, resilient, inclusive and equitable food systems and sustainable healthy diets.

7. In this context, promoting **gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**, in particular, is essential. Creating opportunities for **young people** in rural areas will further accelerate this transformation towards the ambition of the 2030 Agenda and help the region in responding to the UN Secretary-General's call to "build back better" from COVID-19.
8. The European Union and its Member States are fully committed to respond to this call of the UNSG and to build a positive outcome from the **UN Food Systems Summit**, as part of the Decade of Action to Deliver the SDGs by 2030. Bold new actions, solutions and strategies to sustainably deliver **healthy diets**, by leveraging the interlinkages between food systems and nutrition and health outcomes and their environmental, social and economic impacts, must be at the centre of the Summit's outcomes. We look forward to today's discussion feeding into the Food Systems Summit preparations.
9. The EU and its Member States are committed to working together with the members of the region and with all FAO members to build sustainable food systems and healthy diets and promote this transition at global level.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.



Initial questions on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Information point (under item 8): UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Initial questions

The Summit's preparatory process is well underway and the EU and its Member States are fully committed to playing an active part in the various bodies and structures that have been set up to that effect. This preparatory process is critically important for achieving the ambitious outcomes of the Summit that we all want to see.

- What would be your expectations for countries as well as civil society, the private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders in creating the right conditions for the Summit to become a success?

Looking beyond the Summit, it is vitally important to define at an early stage how the follow-up and implementation process will look like.

- How would you see the post-Summit process? More in particular, what would be the main follow-up steps to ensure that the outcomes of the Summit will be effectively implemented in the broader context of the 2030 Agenda?



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2-4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 9: FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative: a New Approach

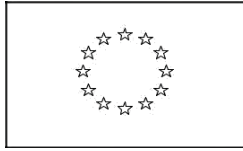
Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. We thank the FAO Management for the update and additional information on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative provided in the background document. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDGs 1 and 2, and we stand ready to support and participate in all actions that can bring us closer to that objective. Due to the pandemic, the 2030 deadline has become even more challenging. So our actions will have to be even more carefully tailored and implemented in order to be effective.
3. This is also true for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. We would stress that if this initiative is to realise its full potential, it is important to ensure close articulation with other existing initiatives aimed at improving the impact of development actions (e.g. the *Alliance Sahel*), and we would welcome more information on how development partners will be associated at an early stage. We also believe that there is a need for further clarification of the role of the RBAs and other relevant UN agencies in relation to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, in particular with a view to optimising synergies. As regards the governance and budgetary aspects of the initiative and its potential implications for FAO's organisational structure, we look forward to discussing them in detail in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2021-2023.
4. As regards the more specific information provided in the background document, we welcome the explanations on the guiding principles for the analytical framework, the selection criteria for beneficiary countries and the technical platform. We acknowledge the objective of bringing together information on the multiple dimensions of agri-food systems in order to support countries and policy-makers through match-making. We believe it is important to clearly distinguish between the base data brought together in a new geospatial platform, on the one hand, and secondary data obtained by modelling, on the other hand. While both types of data should be publicly accessible – with a full guarantee of data security, privacy and

sovereignty – it is important to ensure that the base data is easily available for all stakeholders in order to allow for alternative modelling and model checking, for example. This is also particularly relevant for ensuring transparency and accountability with regard to analysis and the development of potential projects, and for encouraging participation of all stakeholders.

5. Moreover, we consider that specific support and capacity-building measures are necessary to allow beneficiary countries to make full use of the technical platform. We would welcome more information in this respect.
6. To conclude, we look forward to deepening the discussion on the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, in particular in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2021-2023, and we reiterate our commitment to working closely with FAO on further shaping the initiative as a further means of contributing to the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2 within the limits of FAO's mandate.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2-4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 10: Solutions for Youth, Employment and Developing Rural Areas in relation to the United Nations Decade of Family Farming

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Firstly, we would like to thank the Regional Office for the excellent background document on this important issue. We think that the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) provides an exceptional opportunity to draw attention to the role of family farmers as well as to mobilise financial and other resources in support of family farming and rural youth in the region, including through the development of National Action Plans for the UNDF.
3. We stress the importance of political commitment and policy support for family farming, in particular for smallholders. In this regard, we acknowledge the FAO Rural Youth Action Plan and suggest giving due attention to its implementation.
4. We also agree with the strategic objective of developing and implementing a programme to support generational renewal in agriculture – which will help to improve the age balance of farmers in agriculture – and to involve and motivate young people in value-creating work. To achieve these goals, appropriate tools and understandable solutions are needed. Hence the importance of an inclusive approach, with the active participation of young people in the decision-making processes.
6. We highlight that without empowerment and access to decent employment and rural services, including health and education, the young generation will have limited opportunities in rural areas. It is therefore of utmost importance to facilitate and secure their access to land and other natural resources, assets and advisory & training services, social protection schemes, credit and markets, and to improve internet connectivity in rural areas.
7. Digitalisation, as well as agroecology and other innovative approaches, have a key role to play in attaining sustainable agriculture and food systems. This implies the dissemination of knowledge and the development and strengthening of farmers' competencies, as well as the

development of dedicated, accessible and affordable tools and applications. All this will improve efficiency and competitiveness and will result in turn in higher levels of income. With regard to digitalisation and the related data collection, we would underline the need for appropriate safeguard mechanisms to protect sensitive personal data and the need to define the term ‘e-agriculture’.

8. To conclude, we agree with the suggested actions to be implemented and endorse the four key recommendations outlined in the background document.

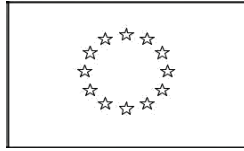
Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 11: Decentralised Offices Network

1. The European Union and its 27 Member States welcome FAO Management's efforts towards further empowering decentralised offices, with due regard for transparency and accountability. We also support the proposed further shift towards a fully programmatic approach at decentralised level, so as to better align regional and subregional activities with the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, we would stress the importance of maintaining adequate technical capacity at FAO Headquarters.
2. With regard to the repositioning of the UN development system (UNDS), we would like to see the potential of the decentralised offices network being used to the full, in particular for them to adequately contribute to the single action plan under the responsibility of the Resident Coordinator. We also see further potential for strengthening RBA collaboration at regional and country level.
3. Moreover, we would like to highlight the role of the Liaison Offices in enhancing FAO's visibility on the ground and in strengthening relations with Members, including those that are not represented in Rome. Liaison offices also have an important part to play in outreach to intergovernmental and other international organisations, and in contacts with a wide range of stakeholders, including with a view to resource mobilisation from private sector partners.
4. Lastly, when it comes to the opening or closing of decentralised offices, we would underline the importance of adequately involving FAO's governance bodies in the evaluation and decision-making process, including with regard to the signature of the related international treaties - as provided for in FAO's basic texts.



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 12: Results and Priorities for FAO in the Region

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The EU and its Member States thank FAO and the Regional Office for their work during the previous biennium and for their effective response in dealing with the current COVID-19 pandemic. We acknowledge the results achieved for 2018-2019 presented in the reference documents.
3. We agree with the priority areas of work identified by FAO for the region in document ERC/20/5 Rev.1, although we have some adjustments to suggest. With respect to priority area 1, the title refers to formulating effective policies but the content of the paragraph only refers to support and assistance. We would like to see due attention given to improving policy formulation in the priority actions.
4. Regarding priority area 2 on transforming food systems, we would highlight the urgent need to significantly strengthen our efforts to sustainably transform food systems at regional and global level. It would therefore be appropriate to explicitly refer to sustainability in the title of this priority area. We furthermore consider that it is key to identify the policy changes needed to reshape food systems to improve nutrition and enable healthy diets, bearing in mind the importance of the economic, social and environmental sustainability and the carbon-neutrality of food systems and paying due attention to the hidden costs of food systems by applying the True Costs Accounting principle.
5. Hence, while we appreciate the reference to the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in this priority area, we do feel a clear reference to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 should be included. In our view, FAO and the Regional Office, along with other actors such as CFS and HLPE, have a key role to play in promoting the major modifications which are sorely needed to achieve sustainable, inclusive, resilient and equitable global food systems. This promotion also includes the preparation of and follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit. This should be clearly reflected in the outline presented to Members.

6. With respect to priority area 2, we would also highlight that our region should remain at the forefront of the fight against antimicrobial resistance, including the phasing out of the use of antimicrobials, as growth promoters.
7. As regards natural resource management, resilience and climate change, as set out in priority area 3, we particularly welcome the objective of improving national agro-environmental regulations with a view to enhancing the sustainability of agriculture-based production and minimising its carbon footprint. We welcome the focus on sustainable natural resources management and increasing resilience also in forestry and ask FAO to include fisheries and aquaculture in priority area 3, to explore opportunities provided by cross-sectoral collaboration and to focus on nature-based solutions with regard to all components.
8. Under the same priority area, with respect to biodiversity, just maintaining the current situation will not be good enough. We need to be ambitious and aim to restore biodiversity, including agro-biodiversity, in addition to conserving it. In this regard, we stress the importance of the work of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
9. In general, the components of the priority areas need to be interrelated and to be implemented in conjunction.
10. With regard to the update on the new Strategic Framework, we welcome the information provided and the progress achieved. In this context, we also express special thanks to FAO for its inclusive process in setting up its new Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, and we look forward to the same inclusivity when it assesses the need to adjust the recently introduced organisational changes once the new Strategic Framework has been adopted.
11. For purposes of time efficiency, we will refrain from sharing our views on the Hand-in-Hand-Initiative at this point and will come back to this under the corresponding agenda item.
12. Assuming that these remarks will be taken into account, the EU and its Member States endorse the proposed regional priority areas for FAO's action in 2020–2021 and beyond, as well as the COVID-19 Recovery and Response Programme for the region. We ask FAO to consider our remarks when revising its Strategic Framework and when submitting the regional priority areas to the FAO Conference in July 2021.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 13: Synthesis of FAO Evaluations 2014-2019 in Europe and Central Asia Region

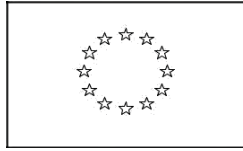
Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. We welcome with appreciation the synthesis report of FAO's Office of Evaluation provided to the Regional Conference in document ERC/20/6. In particular, we appreciate the fact that, as requested by the Programme Committee at its 125th session, the document covers the main results achieved in the region between 2014 and 2019, the lessons learned, and the recommendations for improvement so as to deliver better and lasting results on the ground.
3. The report clearly shows the importance of continuously monitoring and evaluating FAO support, in particular for aligning the support provided for at regional and country level under the Country Programming Frameworks and the Regional Initiatives with the Strategic Objectives, the Strategic Results Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget at corporate level. We reiterate our full support for FAO's Office of Evaluation that is continuously working on improving the Organisation's performance in order to create a comprehensive and consistent monitoring and evaluation system at all levels.
4. In the Europe and Central Asia Region, the three Regional Initiatives have become the main programming tool for FAO support in the region. We note with satisfaction the important role the Regional Office has played in aligning its work on poverty reduction with countries' development needs and priorities. We also commend the Regional Office for its instrumental role in strengthening agri-food trade and market integration in the region, and in particular in supporting countries in the area of phytosanitary and veterinary standards and controls, food quality standards and geographical indication registration.
5. FAO seemed less effective in the area of strengthening regional and country-level capacities to enhance food security and nutrition in the region. We are disappointed about the findings with regard to gender mainstreaming in the work of the Regional Office at regional and country level. As a cross-cutting objective in all FAO work, we cannot overstate the importance of

mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in all activities in the region and of fighting sexual exploitation and abuses, and we urge the Regional Office to step up and deliver better and concrete results.

6. We endorse the recommendations presented in the report. In this regard, we would highlight the need for a robust theory of change to underpin all projects, and stress that all projects should include an exit strategy and be supported by a sound accountability framework. This requires appropriate learning and training possibilities to strengthen the regional and sub-regional offices' capacities.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 14: Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020-2023 of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)

1. The European Union and its 27 Member States thank the FAO Secretariat for the information set out in document ERC/20/4 with, in particular, clear, measurable indicators and targets in order for the MYPOW to be a genuine result-based tool.
2. We recommend that FAO take good note of the outcomes and recommendations from the FAO evaluations 2014-2019 (agenda item 13), in order to continuously improve the MYPOW as a results-based programming tool.
3. With these comments, the EU and its 27 Member States endorse the MYPOW 2020-2023.



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

32nd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe

(Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2-4 November 2020)

Item 15 Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 41st Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the report on the 41st ECA session.
2. We appreciate and support FAO's work in the region on plant health and its interconnection with climate change, food security, biodiversity and increasing global trade – including eCommerce - and human mobility. We have especially valued the possibility of discussing plant health related issues at the 41st ECA session as it had taken place at the doorstep of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH-2020), and had thus contributed to increased awareness in the region of the importance of plant health. We call on other Members and on FAO to continue to pursue the efforts they have undertaken or planned to undertake in the framework of the IYPH-2020, and to alleviate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by extending IYPH-2020 activities, where appropriate, into 2021.
3. We welcome the panel discussion format used for addressing the topic of 'Plant Health in Europe and Central Asia – Relevance, Trends and Developments'. We believe that the 41st ECA session has confirmed the advantages of such a format and contributed to high-quality discussions.
4. We also welcome the detailed recommendations to the Members and to FAO aimed at enhancing national, regional and global arrangements and structures, and cooperation and coordination in plant health. We are committed to continue to work closely with FAO, IPPC and members in the region to improve regional and global cooperation in plant health and its integration in broader climate change, invasive alien species, biodiversity and environmental protection related activities, and to contribute to the implementation of the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. We, amongst others, will support the IPPC work on improving its contribution to the global plant pest alert and outbreak response system.

5. The EU and its 27 Member States are also strongly committed to working internally on strengthening their phytosanitary system so as to best utilise the potential that plants have in helping to achieve the objectives of the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy.
-



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 16: Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the Joint Session of the 40th European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 77th UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)

1. The European Union and its 27 Member States welcome the report of the joint session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and in light of the importance of forests for achieving the SDGs and for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we appreciate the work undertaken by FAO on forest-related topics in the region.
2. In this regard, we also welcome the progress made in implementing the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work for 2018–2021 and the Commission’s decision on the timeline regarding its review. In particular, we welcome the establishment of a new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests.
3. We highlight the importance of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the need to further contribute to its implementation from a regional perspective. For this purpose we invite the EFC and COFFI to continue and enhance their cooperation inter alia through the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section with all relevant stakeholders, especially with forest-related organisations and processes in the region, while allowing sufficient space for specific FAO matters and avoiding duplications.
4. As regards the regional priorities identified by EFC, we thank the joint meeting for its support regarding the ‘Stepping up European Union Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests’ and for highlighting the chances provided by the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration in achieving the SDGs and we align with the priorities designated by EFC.
5. We particularly request FAO to incorporate as regional priorities into its Programme of Work and Budget:
 1. collaboration on integrated landscape approaches amongst various land management agencies responsible for agriculture, forestry and fisheries into relevant national planning processes,

2. addressing challenges faced by invasive species, inter alia, through support of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS),
 3. identifying and operationalising opportunities provided by cross-sectoral collaboration and
 4. finding nature-based solutions for climate change.
6. Finally, the EU and its 27 Member States echo the call of the joint meeting upon all countries and stakeholders of the region to actively support and participate in the XV World Forestry Congress as well as the 7th Mediterranean Forest Week, both to be held in 2021.



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States
32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(2 – 4 November 2020, virtual)

Item 17: Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 30th Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. We welcome the adoption of the five-year EIFAAC Strategy for 2020-2024, including a new communication strategy, and a work plan for the intersessional period 2020-2021.
3. In this regard, we call upon EIFAAC to further align its mission and work plan with important global issues, such as the UN Food Systems Summit and other mechanisms contributing to the SDGs, and to this end we encourage EIFAAC to improve contact and interactions with other relevant stakeholders.
4. We underline the need to develop transdisciplinary, integrative, systematic and evidence-based management approaches creating win-win solutions for involved stakeholders with regard to conservation conflicts and other conflicts of interest arising from multiple uses of water resources and different perceptions on targets.
5. The EU and its Member States do appreciate the Commission's commitment to better disseminate advice within its technical area to the European Union and national policy-makers by providing more timely scientific data and research findings and by identifying the priority needs of Members when planning new projects.
6. We call upon all Members of the region to support and actively participate in EIFAAC and its work, particularly nominating and supporting their operational focal points (OFCs) to EIFAAC.
7. Finally, we thank the Government of Ireland for offering to host the 31st session of EIFAAC to be held in 2021.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.