

Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the

EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

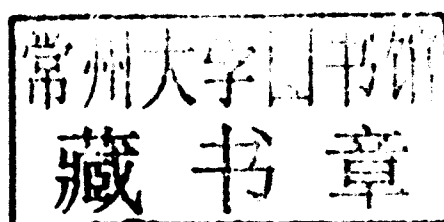
Zagreb, 17-20 May 2010



Report of the

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Zagreb, 17–20 May 2010



Copies of FAO publications can be requested from:
Sales and Marketing Group
Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
E-mail: publications-sales@fao.org
Fax: +39 06 57053360
Web site: www.fao.org/icatalog/inter-e.htm

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN 978-92-5-106709-3

All rights reserved. FAO encourages reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Non-commercial uses will be authorized free of charge. Reproduction for resale or other commercial purposes, including educational purposes, may incur fees. Applications for permission to reproduce or disseminate FAO copyright materials and all other queries on rights and licences, should be addressed by e-mail to:
copyright@fao.org

or to the

Chief, Publishing Policy and Support Branch
Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

© FAO 2010

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The present text is the final version of the report presented on 20 May 2010 to the delegates of the Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission.

FAO.

Report of the Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission.
Zagreb, 17–20 May 2010.

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 955. Rome, FAO. 2010. 40p.

ABSTRACT

The Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 17 to 20 May 2010. The Session reviewed EIFAC's activities since 2008 in the fields of fishery biology and management, aquaculture, protection of the aquatic environment and social and economic issues. The Session deliberated on the options for the restructuring and improving of the functioning of the Commission and decided that EIFAC should continue as a fishery body under Article VI of the FAO Constitution but with an improved structure and modernized Rules of Procedure, subject to endorsement of these decisions by the FAO Council and the Director-General of FAO. All Working Parties and Sub-Commissions were abolished and it was decided to adopt a project approach for future work in relevant fields. The Twenty-seventh Session will be held in 2012.

OFFICERS OF EIFAC

Chairperson:	T. Brenner
First Vice-Chairperson:	N. Skakelja
Second Vice-Chairperson:	C. Gallagher
Chairperson of the Technical and Scientific Committee:	G. Castelnaud
Secretary:	G. Marmulla

Mr Petri Heinimaa (Finland), Mr Arne Eggereide (Norway), Mr Ion Navodaru (Romania), Ms Aylin Velioglu (Turkey) and Mr Miran Aprahamian (United Kingdom) were elected as additional members of the Executive Committee which will become the *ad interim* Management Committee as soon as the EIFAC members adopt the new "Rules of Procedure" with at least a two-thirds majority.

CONTENTS

	Page
DECISIONS AND DIRECTIVES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF EIFAC	vii
OFFICERS OF EIFAC	viii
I. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	1
II. REVIEW OF THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF SUB-COMMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS	1
SUB-COMMISSION I – BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT	1
Eel	1
Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters	2
Introductions and Stocking	2
Sturgeon	2
Fish Passage Best Practices	3
Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat	3
Crayfish	3
SUB-COMMISSION II – AQUACULTURE	3
Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health	3
Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture	3
Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture	4
Eastern European Affairs: Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE)	4
SUB-COMMISSION III – PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC RESOURCE	4
Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture	4
Prevention and Control of Bird Predation	4
EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)	4
Climate Change and Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture	5
SUB-COMMISSION IV – SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES	5
Recreational Fisheries	5
Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries	5
IUU Fishing and Poaching	6
Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture	6
III. OPTIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING AND IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF EIFAC	6
IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF EIFAC	8

V.	ANY OTHER MATTERS	9
VI.	ELECTION OF EIFAC OFFICERS	9
VII.	DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION	9
VIII.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION	9

APPENDIXES

A	Agenda	11
B	List of participants	12
C	List of documents	18
D	Opening addresses:	
	Mr Tonći Božanic	19
	Mr Jean-François Pulvenis de Séligny	21
	Mr Phil Hickley	24
E	Publications and dissemination avenues of Sub-Commission IV	26
F	Indicative draft FAO Council Resolution to revise the statutes of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission an FAO Article IV body	27
G	Indicative Rules of Procedures of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission as an FAO Article VI body	31
H	Statement by Mr Gérard Castelnaud, Chair of the Technical and Scientific Committee	40

**DECISIONS AND DIRECTIVES
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF EIFAC**

	Paragraphs
<i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Party on Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality: Working Party discontinued	17
<i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Party on the Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health: Working Party discontinued	22
<i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Party on Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture: Working Party discontinued	23
<i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Party on Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture: activity discontinued as EIFAC activity	24
Eastern European Affairs – Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE): activity discontinued as EIFAC activity	25
<i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation: first item of TORs changed	29
<i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Party on IUU Fishing and Poaching: Working Party discontinued	41
Continuation of EIFAC as FAO Article VI body with improved structure and Rules of Procedure agreed	50
Transformation to a project-based organization agreed	50
New mission statement adopted	53
Amendments to FAO Council Resolution 2/26 and EIFAC Rules of Procedure agreed	54
All existing subsidiary bodies, i.e. Sub-Commissions, <i>ad hoc</i> Working Parties and Liaison Groups, abolished in favour of a project approach	54-58
Appropriate activities to be converted into projects under the guidance and clearance of the Technical and Scientific Committee	63
Election of EIFAC officers	65-66
Date and place of the Twenty-seventh Session	68

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Twenty-sixth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 17 to 20 May 2010 under the Chairmanship of Mr Phil Hickley. The Session was attended by 35 representatives from 21 Members of the Commission and by one observer from the Russian Federation. The list of participants forms Appendix B to this report.

2. The welcoming speech of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development was delivered by Mr Tonči Božanič, Secretary of State of the Ministry, who opened the Session and welcomed all delegates to Croatia. His address is included in Appendix D.

3. The Head of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) delegation, Mr Jean-François Pulvenis de Séligny, Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division, welcomed the participants in the name of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and of the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Ichiro Nomura. His statement is included in Appendix D.

4. The Chairperson of EIFAC, Mr Phil Hickley, expressed his deep appreciation to the Government of Croatia for hosting this Session and commended the local organizers for all their efforts. He referred to the need to enhance the relevance of EIFAC to the management and advisory challenges of modern times and underscored the importance and uniqueness of EIFAC within the pan-European context. His address is included in Appendix D.

5. The Agenda which appears as Appendix A was adopted. The documents which were placed before the Commission are listed in Appendix C.

II. REVIEW OF THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF SUB-COMMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS

SUB-COMMISSION I – BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

6. Mr Tomás Brenner (Germany), Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, informed the Sub-Commission on the progress of the Sub-Commission. The report of the activities was submitted to the Session as EIFAC/XXVI/2010/2. EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.5 provided details of the work carried out by the Joint EIFAC/ICES *Ad hoc* Working Party on Eel.

Joint EIFAC/ICES *Ad Hoc* Working Party on Eel (Convener: R. Poole)

7. The Working Party (WP) met twice in the intersessional period, i.e. in Leuven, Belgium, in September 2008 and in Gothenburg, Sweden, in September 2009. Reports for each meeting are available on both the EIFAC and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Websites. The main focus of the WP was in documenting the status of the eel stocks and fisheries and examining methods of stock assessment and post-evaluation at the international level. A summary of the recommendations from these meetings was presented to the Session as follows:

- since, for biological reasons, recovery will be a long-term process, all anthropogenic mortality should be reduced to as close to zero as possible until the recovery of the stock is achieved.
- The eel management plans and their associated data, and data from other European Union (EU) Directives, should be made available to the WP. Gaps in the data and in the methods should be identified and addressed to allow international assessment and post-evaluation of the stock.

- Noting the urgent need to plan and co-ordinate data collection and for development of assessment tools for the EU evaluation in 2012, it is urgently recommended that this be co-ordinated at the international level.

8. The WP also updated the eel quality database and presented advances in stocking, reviewed eel quality data and provided advice on optimizing the spawning output in the light of declining recruitment.

9. The Convener informed that this is his last year as Convener and thanked the WP members and EIFAC for their support and collaboration. The Chair thanked Mr Poole for his excellent work as Convener of the WP.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Fish Monitoring in Fresh Waters (Convener: P. Hickley)

10. The revised draft standard *Water Quality – Guidance on the Estimation of Fish Abundance with Mobile Hydroacoustic Methods* received a positive vote from the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) membership for status as provisional European Normalized Standard. Inter-calibration fieldwork is scheduled for late 2010 or 2011.

11. The Convener of the WP assisted with the editing of the conference proceedings of the conference on Fish Stock Assessment Methods for Lakes and Reservoirs which was held in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, in 2007. They were published as a special issue of *Fisheries Research*. It is intended to provide similar support to the forthcoming conference on Fish Sampling with Active Methods, Ceske Budejovice, 8–11 September 2010 (www.fsam2010.wz.cz).

Ad Hoc Working Party on Introductions and Stocking (Convener: I. Cowx)

12. In line with the agreement during the Twenty-fifth Session in Antalya, Turkey, the WP used the EU FP6 funded project entitled “Impact of alien species in aquaculture” (IMPASSE) as a vehicle for delivering the work programme. The outputs of the project are available at <http://www2.hull.ac.uk/discover/hifi/impasse/documents.aspx>.

13. The Convener of the WP provided expert advice to the EU on implementation of the Council Regulation 708/2007 on “Use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture”. The WP was involved in the conference entitled Management of Alien Species for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries (<http://www.dbag.unifi.it/maliaf/>), held in Florence, Italy, in November 2008, and members of the WP made a number of presentations. The proceedings of the conference will be published in a special issue of *Applied Ichthyology* during 2010.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Sturgeon (Convener: M. Chebanov)

14. During the intersessional period, emphasis was given to work on two FAO sturgeon-related projects as follows:

- “Capacity building for the recovery and management of the sturgeon fisheries of the Caspian Sea” (TCP/INT/3101);
- “Recovery of sturgeon population in Turkey: habitat assessment and restocking” (TCP/TUR/3202).

15. Other activities of the WP included publication of the book *Ultrasound diagnostics in sturgeon broodstock management* (M. Chebanov and E. Galich) in November 2009; participation in the World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS) Board of Directors Meeting and the General Assembly 2009; participation in the 6th International Symposium on Sturgeons in Wuhan, China; involvement in the assessment of the status of different sturgeon species in accordance with the updated International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) “Red List”; and two sturgeon projects in the Republic of

Armenia and in the Republic of Moldova, aiming at building capacity of sturgeon aquaculture in these countries.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Fish Passage Best Practices (Convener: A. Zitek)

16. Little progress has been made in achieving the set targets of the WP. However, WP members contributed to the preparation of a guideline for building fish passes in Austria which could be an important contribution to the EIFAC natural fish pass guidelines for which work has resumed by selected experts again.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Mapping of Fish Distribution and Aquatic Habitat Quality (Convener: R. Fricke)

17. No progress report was received. The Commission decided to discontinue this WP in the absence of an active Convener.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Crayfish (Convener: M. Pursiainen)

18. The first meeting of the WP was held in connection with the Regional European Crayfish Workshop Future of Native Crayfish in Europe, 7–10 September 2009, in Pisek, Czech Republic. The meeting approved a first recommendation from the WP to EIFAC that suggested encouraging improved collection of statistical information on freshwater crayfish species in the EIFAC member countries.

19. The preliminary programme of the WP, up to 2012, includes two other meetings. One in connection with the Workshop European Crayfish: Food, Flagships and Ecosystem Services held in Poitiers, France. A second, planned for 2011, in Finland, will deal with responsible management, communication and diseases.

20. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

SUB-COMMISSION II – AQUACULTURE

21. Mr L. Váradi (Hungary), Chairperson of this Sub-Commission, introduced the progress report on intersessional activities of this Sub-Commission as presented in EIFAC/XXVI/2010/3.

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Relationship between Fish Transfer and Fish Health (Convener: E. Hudson)

22. No report from the Convener had been received during the intersessional period. Despite efforts to re-vitalize this WP, there were no outputs by this WP for many years. The 2009 Meeting of the Executive Committee of EIFAC recommended the closure of this WP which was agreed and adopted by the Session.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Aquatic Resources Management in Aquaculture (Convener: M. Verdegem)

23. The Convener had confirmed that the Wageningen Aquaculture Team continued to work on the subject, however, no new Working Group was formed for the purposes of this WP. Mr Verdegem had indicated his wish to resign as Convener of this WP. The Chairperson proposed that this WP be discontinued, which was agreed and adopted by the Session.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Market Perspectives of European Freshwater Aquaculture
(Convener: L. Váradi)

24. The Convener confirmed that the proposed Freshwater Fish Marketing Workshop will be organized in August 2010 in conjunction with the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) Directors Meeting to be held in Tyumen, the Russian Federation, with the support from the FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest. The Convener proposed that this activity be closed as EIFAC activity, however that it might be continued in the context of collaboration between NACEE, FAO, International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) and the European Commission. This proposal was accepted by the Session.

Eastern European Affairs: Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe
(NACEE) (Convener: L. Váradi)

25. The Convener, Mr Váradi, who is also the focal point of NACEE, regularly communicated with FAO Fishery Officers in Budapest and Ankara to explore possibilities regarding inter-regional collaboration in aquaculture development between Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Caucasus. He proposed that this activity be closed as EIFAC activity, however, that it would possibly continue as collaborative effort by NACEE and FAO. This proposal was accepted by the Session.

26. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

SUB-COMMISSION III – PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC RESOURCE

27. Mr G. Castelnaud (France), Chairperson of this Sub-Commission, introduced the progress report on intersessional activities of this Sub-Commission as presented in EIFAC/XXVI/2010/4.

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Handling of Fishes in Fisheries and Aquaculture (Convener: R. Rösch)

28. The 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee invited the Convener to prepare the expected EIFAC Position Statement on animal welfare issues in inland fisheries and aquaculture for presentation at the Twenty-sixth Session. Since then, no further update had been received. The Session took note.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Prevention and Control of Bird Predation (Convener: P. Heinimaa)

29. The information collected on interactions between cormorant and fisheries is not yet available, but will be published as INTERCAFE¹ project reports by mid-2010. A closer co-operation on cormorant-fisheries interactions between the countries around the Baltic Sea is being prepared. Given recent decisions regarding the proposed European cormorant management plan it was suggested that the first point of the WP's TORs be changed into: "develop a pan-European cormorant action plan". The Session accepted this proposal.

Ad Hoc Working Party on EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (Convener: C. Argillier)

30. The analysis of possible inconsistencies between the national laws and the Water Framework Directive (WFD), as regards ichthyofauna, has been continued by the WP but more detailed information collected became available only for Finland, Italy and France. This work is being summarized. The WP members faced difficulties in identifying information sources and contacts. For

¹ Interdisciplinary Initiative to Reduce Pan-European Cormorant-Fisheries Conflicts (INTERCAFE)

future work it will be necessary to mobilize people outside the scientific community, and the Commission was invited to consider ways in helping the WP to identify people in the Ministries in charge of the relevant legal aspects. The Session took note.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Climate Change and Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

31. The Chairperson recalled that the 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee had decided that the WP on Climate Change be allocated to Sub-Commission III. He suggested that the topic is very important and be given highest priority in the future work programme of EIFAC. The Chairperson added that the mandate of the WP should be extended to address global change and its consequences upon resources and upon fisheries and aquaculture.

32. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

SUB-COMMISSION IV – SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

33. In the absence of Mr I. Cowx (UK), Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, Mr P. Hickley (Chairperson of EIFAC) introduced the progress report on intersessional activities of the Sub-Commission as presented in EIFAC/XXVI/2010/5.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Recreational Fisheries (Convener: R. Arlinghaus)

34. The WP disseminated the *Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries*. This Code has been translated into Croatian, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian and published on the EIFAC Website.² The Code in the Russian language is also available in hard copy.

35. Monitoring on key research has continued including on international participation rates in recreational fisheries. A forthcoming report will show that angling participation has likely reached a ceiling in central Europe and is expected to grow substantially in Eastern Europe.

36. The WP contributed to the below mentioned methodological guidelines for assessing benefits of inland fisheries.

37. The Convener will continue to monitor the EU calls for placement of a proposal on a Pan-European study on the social and economic importance of recreational fisheries.

Ad Hoc Working Party on Socio-Economic Aspects of Inland Fisheries (Convener: M. Sipponen)

38. The development of a draft of methodologies for the undertaking of social and economic surveys on recreational and commercial fisheries was carried out in collaboration with the above WP. This draft was discussed during a Workshop held on January 2009 which refined the methodologies for submission to the Commission as document EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.6.

39. The Commission commended the technical content of the methodologies, and recommended that the title of the document be *Methodologies for Assessing Social and Economic Benefits of European Inland Recreational Fisheries*. The methodologies were endorsed by the Commission for publication as an EIFAC Occasional Paper. A summary will also be published in the *Journal of Fisheries Management and Ecology*.

40. The report on information on property rights for inland commercial fisheries will be published this year.

² <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0363e/i0363e00.htm>. Further publications and dissemination avenues are included in Appendix E

Ad Hoc Working Party on IUU Fishing and Poaching (Convener: P. Stachowiak)

41. In light of its inactivity, the Commission decided to close the WP.

Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture

42. The Report of the Symposium on Interactions between Social, Economic and Ecological Objectives of Inland Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Aquaculture was published and made available on-line (for the link see Appendix E). The Session thanked the Turkish host and FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia for their work in convening and disseminating the results of the Symposium.

43. The Session adopted the report of the Sub-Commission as presented.

III. OPTIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING AND IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF EIFAC

44. Ms Judith Swan, FAO Consultant, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the review of options for the long-term improvement of EIFAC, based on the Decision Paper (EIFAC/XXVI/2010/6) and the Options Paper (EIFAC/XXVI/2010/Inf.4). She addressed, *inter alia*, the background and institutional structure of EIFAC, global developments in the role of regional fishery bodies (RFBs), the mandate and processes for establishing FAO RFBs, financial and institutional implications and the need for objectives and a mission statement for a reformed EIFAC. She presented and elaborated options for reform which had been identified at the January 2010 Workshop to Review the Functioning of EIFAC held in Mainz, Germany.

45. These options were to: a) continue EIFAC as a FAO Article VI body, but with improved structure and Rules of Procedure, taking into account a "0" growth budget scenario; or b) convert EIFAC into a FAO Article XIV body with an independent budget provided by the Members of EIFAC for operations and staffing; or c) abolish EIFAC. Ms Swan drew the attention of the delegations to the draft legal instruments appended to the Decision Paper that had been prepared as a starting point for consideration of the first two options in order to facilitate understanding and timely agreement on the way forward.

46. The delegates were invited to consider and decide on:

- the future legal basis of EIFAC, including advising or deciding on the content of the relevant supporting legal documentation;
- the reform of the EIFAC institutional structure to a project-based organization;
- the relevant financial considerations; and
- any other necessary process or requirements that may be needed to support the decision.

47. In the discussion following the presentation by Ms Swan, clarification was sought by delegates on a range of issues relating to FAO constitutional and legal matters as well as on financial aspects related to provision of funds and resources to FAO RFBs, both from FAO itself and from Members of these bodies. The Secretariat addressed these issues in order to provide the relevant explanations and information.

48. Other questions raised were related to the need for specific actions that would underpin the reform of EIFAC, including the adoption of a project-based approach. In this respect, some delegates emphasized that there should be increased political and administrative awareness and financial support at the level of Members, so as to ensure the adequate level of Members' commitment and participation

in the work of the Commission. It was also underscored that Members should take the responsibility to clearly identify priorities for EIFAC work, and maintain a focus on issues of general interest shared by all Members in the region. Importantly, on a broader level, it was recognized that the development by the Members of a work programme for the Commission, taking into account priority issues identified by them, would be essential for a reformed EIFAC.

49. Delegations of EU member countries present at the Session were called by the representative of Spain, whose country currently holds the presidency of the EU, to attend coordination meetings on the options for restructuring and improving the functioning of EIFAC.

50. Delegations fully supported the continuation of EIFAC because of the important role it has played over many years in European inland fisheries and aquaculture. They expressed their preference for its continuation as FAO Article VI body taking into account the costs and benefits to Members in the current economic climate. Transformation to a project-oriented organization was also favoured, and it was agreed that scenarios that support such reform should be explored. In particular, delegations believed it would be necessary to maintain a strong place for EIFAC in the FAO Regular Programme budget whilst considering mechanisms for voluntary contributions. Several delegations, however, advised that they were not currently in a position to contribute any funds to the Commission at this time. In addition, the delegations considered it necessary that a direct line of access between EIFAC and the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) be established.

51. The possibility of a future change of circumstances was contemplated, and delegations agreed that no options should be closed for the future. Delegations agreed to address this by requiring a review of the effectiveness of a reformed EIFAC upon the completion of a period of three years after the reforms had been approved by FAO.

52. Delegations reviewed the objectives for a reformed EIFAC proposed at the Mainz Workshop, and agreed that they are to:

- promote the sustainable development, utilization, conservation, management, protection and restoration of European inland fisheries and aquaculture resources based on the best available scientific advice and the application of an ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach and the need to safeguard biodiversity;
- identify and address strategic issues for European inland fisheries and aquaculture and provide advice and recommendations on future policies, measures and related actions needed to address the issues in a rapid and accountable manner as requested by Members;
- provide advice to managers/decision makers of inland fisheries and aquaculture as requested based on scientific, social, economic, legal and other factors; and
- serve as a forward-looking international platform for the collation, validation dissemination and consideration of information on common challenges and opportunities to European inland fisheries and aquaculture, and to this end, *inter alia*, proactively identify:
 - relevant scientific, social, economic, legal, statistical and other information and make recommendations for decision makers taking into account the need to protect and preserve the aquatic ecosystems; and
 - common problems and solutions, and harmonized approaches as appropriate.

53. Delegations adopted the following EIFAC mission statement:

The mission of EIFAC is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture, consistent with the objectives and principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments, and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities towards these goals through:

- providing advice, information and coordination;

- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- the delivery of effective research.

54. Delegations agreed to the amendments of the EIFAC instruments, namely FAO Council Resolution 2/26 which established EIFAC and the Rules of Procedure as amended in 1998, to reflect the agreed objectives and mission statement, and a project approach through the establishment of a Management Committee and a Technical and Scientific Committee. This is, however, subject to endorsement of these decisions by the Director-General and the Council. All existing subsidiary bodies, i.e. Sub-Commissions, *ad hoc* Working Parties and Liaison Groups, were abolished.

55. The delegations completed a first reading of the indicative draft Council Resolution and the indicative draft Rules of Procedure provided in Appendix 2 and Appendix 5 to the Decision Paper respectively, and could reach a tentative consensus on the texts which are reproduced in Appendix F and Appendix G of this report. The delegations noted the need for a further reading of these texts which should be adopted by the Commission by a two thirds majority of its membership before being submitted to the FAO Director-General and Council for its final adoption.

56. During the first reading, delegations identified a need for definitions or a glossary to define key words.

57. The delegations noted that the restructuring had been under consideration for the past two years, and that, given the immediate need for EIFAC to function in a modern and effective manner, decided that the reform cannot be delayed any longer. It was acknowledged that transition arrangements should be made with respect to the work so far carried out under the Working Parties.

58. To that end, it was agreed that *ad interim* arrangements for restructuring should be established immediately in accordance with the draft Council Resolution and draft Rules of Procedure reviewed during the Session. It was acknowledged that this would be subject to approval by the FAO Director-General and Council. This would involve the establishment of the *ad interim* Management Committee and Technical and Scientific Committee in accordance with the draft Council Resolution and Rules of Procedure.

59. Delegations discussed possible support for a restructured EIFAC and related projects. It was noted that project support by Members could be made through contributions of funding or human resources.

60. The delegations firmly recommended that FAO support a full-time Secretary, and to this end agreed to save money in other areas including on translation and interpretation costs through use of one official language in future. They also requested FAO to reallocate any other funds that may be saved as appropriate.

61. It was made clear by the Secretariat that, in view of the FAO Immediate Plan of Action, the FAO/FI 2009 Position Statement and related developments, it was unlikely that the FAO Regular Programme budget would be able to accommodate such support.

62. It was agreed that the *ad interim* Management Committee would replace the Executive Committee and carry out the functions agreed in the draft Rules of Procedure.

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF EIFAC

63. The delegations recognized that, until the proposed reforms have entered into force, *ad interim* transition arrangements are needed for the continuation, improvement, amendment, implementation and development of the Programme of Work. In particular, appropriate activities as discussed under Agenda Item II for continuation shall be converted into projects under the guidance and clearance of