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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Thirty-third Session

Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022

**Letter from the Russian Federation on the revision of
the Provisional Annotated Agenda of the 33rd Session of
the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)**



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO FAO AND OTHER UN AGENCIES
IN ROME, ITALY
Via Vicenza, 3 00185 Roma
Tel. 06 902 357 44; Fax. 06 902 357 30**

N° 76

15 April 2022

Dear Mr. Director-General,

I would like to draw your attention to a number of important points related to the preparations for the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) to be held in Łódź, Poland from 10 to 13 May this year.

The Russian Federation takes note of the letter from 44 ERC Members dated 25 March 2022, in which they request under Rule XXXV. 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule IV.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Conference for Europe to include in the provisional agenda of the forthcoming session the item “Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine”.

Copy: FAO Deputy Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia

V. O. Rakhmanin

To his Excellency

Dr Qu Dongyu

Director-General

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(FAO)

Rome

With full respect for the right of Member Nations to propose items for the provisional agenda, we would like to declare that this letter has not been circulated by the authors among all members of the ERC, which for the most part relates to the European Regional Group (ERG) of FAO, or among the countries of Central Asia, members of the FAO Asian Group. The initial provisional agenda was circulated in advance by the host country Poland, which however prevented it from also circulating the updated version of the agenda in advance. It was circulated by the Chairman of the ERC (11 April 2022) and only after that did the agenda appear on the official website of the Regional Conference in English (12 April 2022) and later in other official languages. As at 14 April 2022, there is no updated agenda in Russian. The letter itself appeared on the official website of the Regional Conference only on 12 April 2022.

In this regard, we consider that the preparatory process for the Regional Conference is not sufficiently transparent, and Member Nations were not given the opportunity to express their views on this proposal. The atmosphere of conspiracy, in which the new agenda item was included, once again underlines the intention of individual countries to politicize the work of FAO. For its part, the Russian Federation has always adhered and continues to adhere to the principle of open and transparent discussion of any issues. In connection with the above, we reserve the right to give our assessment of other factors influencing price growth under this agenda item.

Separately, we would like to express the hope that the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia will post all documents for the Conference in a timely manner in all its official languages.

I ask you to circulate this letter as a document of the ERC.

Please accept, dear Mr Director-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

V.Vasiliev

Ambassador, Permanent Representative