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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
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**E**

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

## Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 14-17 May 2024

### Report on the outcomes of the debate of the 43rd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

#### Executive Summary

The 43rd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held from 27 to 28 September 2023, and on 27 November 2023, and was hosted by Hungary.

As recommended in the assessment of the ECA undertaken in 2017, the Session focused on one main technical theme. The theme for the 43rd Session of the ECA was “Sustainable use of land and water resources in Europe and Central Asia.”

Under the main technical theme, the Commission discussed the following subtopics:

- a. enhancing the resilience and sustainability of national agrifood systems through integrated land and water resources management in Europe and Central Asia;
- b. land governance and land degradation neutrality in Europe and Central Asia; and
- c. the importance of water governance for enhancing water security in Europe and Central Asia.

The 43rd Session of the ECA adopted a number of recommendations relating to each of the subtopics.

Apart from items directly related to the main technical theme, the Agenda of the Session included: an item on FAO’s response to the multiple crises in Europe and Central Asia; a report on gender equality in the region; and a report on the implementation of recommendations from the 42nd Session of the ECA, held in Budapest, Hungary, from 19 to 21 January 2022, under the main technical theme “Transforming food systems to address all forms of malnutrition in Europe and Central Asia.”

At the end of the Session, the Commission elected its new Executive Committee.

This document contains the text of the Report of the 43rd Session of the ECA. Additional material, including background documents used to support the discussions, can be found on the ECA website (<https://www.fao.org/events/detail/43rd-session-of-the-european-commission-on-agriculture/en>).

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

**Suggested action by the Regional Conference**

The Regional Conference is invited to review and endorse the Report and the recommendations of the 43rd Session of the ECA.

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**ECA/43/23/REPORT**

# **REPORT**

## **Forty-third Session of the European Commission on Agriculture**

**Budapest, Hungary**

**27-28 September 2023**

**and 27 November 2023**

Previous sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture (known as the European Committee on Agricultural Technology from 1949 to 1952 and as the European Committee on Agriculture until 1956) are as follows:

- |     |                        |   |
|-----|------------------------|---|
| 1.  | Preparatory Meeting    | Paris, 27–28 June 1949                                  |
| 2.  | First Session          | Rome, 26-30 September 1949                              |
| 3.  | Second Session         | Geneva, 27-30 March 1950                                |
| 4.  | Third Session          | Rome, 25-28 June 1951                                   |
| 5.  | Fourth Session         | Rome, 3-6 June 1952                                     |
| 6.  | Fifth Session          | Rome, 26-29 May 1953                                    |
| 7.  | Sixth Session          | Rome, 14-18 June 1954                                   |
| 8.  | Seventh Session        | Rome, 20-24 June 1955                                   |
| 9.  | Eighth Session         | Rome, 7-11 May 1956                                     |
| 10. | Ninth Session          | Rome, 17-21 June 1957                                   |
| 11. | Tenth Session          | Rome, 19-23 May 1958                                    |
| 12. | Eleventh Session       | Rome, 25-29 May 1959                                    |
| 13. | Twelfth Session        | Rome, 15-19 May 1961                                    |
| 14. | Thirteenth Session     | Rome, 13-18 May 1963                                    |
| 15. | Fourteenth Session     | Rome, 17-21 May 1965                                    |
| 16. | Fifteenth Session      | Rome, 15-20 May 1967                                    |
| 17. | Sixteenth Session      | Rome, 23-26 October 1968                                |
| 18. | Seventeenth Session    | Rome, 7-11 September 1970                               |
| 19. | Eighteenth Session     | Rome, 8-12 May 1972                                     |
| 20. | Nineteenth Session     | Rome, 17-21 June 1974                                   |
| 21. | Twentieth Session      | Rome, 17-23 June 1976                                   |
| 22. | Twenty-first Session   | Rome, 19-23 June 1978                                   |
| 23. | Twenty-second Session  | Rome, 23-27 June 1980                                   |
| 24. | Twenty-third Session   | Rome, 21-25 June 1982                                   |
| 25. | Twenty-fourth Session  | Innsbruck, Austria, 18-22 June 1984                     |
| 26. | Twenty-fifth Session   | Chania, Greece, 8-12 June 1987                          |
| 27. | Twenty-sixth Session   | Porto, Portugal, 23-26 May 1989                         |
| 28. | Twenty-seventh Session | Herrsching, Germany, 1-5 July 1991                      |
| 29. | Twenty-eighth Session  | Valletta, Malta, 27 September – 1 October 1993          |
| 30. | Twenty-ninth Session   | Bled, Slovenia, 2-6 October 1995                        |
| 31. | Thirtieth Session      | Nitra, Slovakia, 8-11 October 1997                      |
| 32. | Thirty-first Session   | Rome, 12-14 October 1999                                |
| 33. | Thirty-second Session  | Rome, 7-8 March 2002                                    |
| 34. | Thirty-third Session   | Rome, 1-2 March 2004                                    |
| 35. | Thirty-fourth Session  | Riga, Latvia, 7 June 2006                               |
| 36. | Thirty-fifth Session   | Innsbruck, Austria, 25 June 2008                        |
| 37. | Thirty-sixth Session   | Yerevan, Armenia, 11-12 May 2010                        |
| 38. | Thirty-seventh Session | Baku, Azerbaijan, 17-18 April 2012                      |
| 39. | Thirty-eighth Session  | Bucharest, Romania, 1-2 April 2014                      |
| 40. | Thirty-ninth Session   | Budapest, Hungary, 22-23 September 2015                 |
| 41. | Fortieth Session       | Budapest, Hungary, 27-28 September 2017                 |
| 42. | Forty-first Session    | Budapest, Hungary, 1-2 October 2019                     |
| 43. | Forty-second Session   | Budapest, Hungary, 19-21 January 2022                   |
| 44. | Forty-third Session    | Budapest, Hungary, 27-28 September and 27 November 2023 |

FAO. 2023. Report of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), Budapest, Hungary.

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## I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. The Forty-third Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held on 27 and 28 September 2023 in Budapest, Hungary.
2. The ECA session was attended by 59 delegates from 39 Member Countries and one Member Organization (the European Union). Nine observers representing international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, research and academia were in attendance.

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. Mr Marios Georgiades, Chairperson of the European Commission on Agriculture, opened the Forty-third Session of the ECA and welcomed the delegates. He also thanked the Government of Hungary for hosting the ECA once again in a physical modality.
4. His Excellency Dr István Nagy, Minister of Agriculture of Hungary, welcomed the delegates to the session. The minister noted the main challenges that the Europe and Central Asia region faces related to the sustainable use of land and water resources, including land degradation, soil salinity, lack of proper land tenure mechanisms, water scarcity and climate change. He provided examples of recent advances in Hungary related to irrigation management and water conservation. He highlighted the role of research, development and innovation in increasing the efficiency of sustainable soil and water use. Dr Nagy further emphasized the importance of community engagement, education and awareness-raising initiatives to promoting responsible consumption and environmental protection. Global cooperation, political commitment and systemic approaches are important to tackling cross-border issues in land and water management and in achieving more resilient food systems and biodiversity conservation in the region.
5. On behalf of FAO, Mr Nabil Gangi, Officer-in-Charge for the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude to the Government of Hungary for excellent cooperation and for hosting this session. He emphasized the importance of the work of the Commission in addressing the needs and challenges existing in the region related to the development of agricultural sectors. He expressed hope that the Forty-third Session of the ECA would help discuss the most relevant issues related to the sustainable use of land and water resources in the region.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

6. The Commission adopted the Agenda as given in Appendix A of this report, and the Timetable.

## APPOINTMENT OF THE RAPPORTEURS

7. Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation) and Mr Gonzalo Eiriz (Spain) were appointed as Rapporteurs of the ECA.<sup>1,2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The European Union and its 27 Member States disassociated themselves from the election of Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation) as Rapporteur.

<sup>2</sup> The Russian Federation disassociated itself from the election of Mr Gonzalo Eiriz (Spain) as Rapporteur.

**MAIN TECHNICAL THEME: SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND AND WATER  
RESOURCES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

**SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES IN EUROPE  
AND CENTRAL ASIA**

8. Ms Tania Santiviáñez, Agricultural Officer, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, presented the introductory document ECA/43/23/3.<sup>3</sup> The document provided an overview of the importance of natural resources to agriculture and the interconnection with land and water resources for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. Agriculture production systems put enormous pressure on land, soil and water – especially in rural communities, where the resource base is limited and dependency on land and water resources is high. Unsustainable management of land, soil and water leads to land degradation, erosion, decreased soil quality, soil and water pollution, and drops in groundwater levels. These effects consequently decrease crop and livestock production, with direct impacts on food security and human health.

9. She stressed the urgency of addressing challenges related to land and water through effective governance and the implementation of integrated land and water policies. Advancing land and water governance is embodied in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031, its four betters and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The aims of the discussions in the Commission are to: i) encourage collaboration and coordination among actors, potentially leading to integrated land and water policies and regulations across sectors and countries; and ii) identify and promote practical solutions and recommendations to improve land and water governance and achieve land degradation neutrality in the region.

**ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF NATIONAL  
AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH INTEGRATED LAND AND WATER  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

10. The Commission discussed the document ECA/43/23/4 Rev.1.<sup>4</sup>

11. The Commission recommended that Members:

- a) **Establish and support** coordination mechanisms between water and land sectors, starting from an analysis of existing mechanisms that can provide an opportunity to introduce a land-water nexus perspective and institutionalize coordination without adding to the often already complex and fragmented institutional landscapes.
- b) **Improve and refine** national policy frameworks to incorporate water elements in land-use planning, promoting ecosystem-based solutions and collaboration between the sectors, with the involvement of – and financial incentives to – local communities, including gender and minority<sup>5</sup> groups.
- c) **Support**, at the regional level, coordination and planning to better manage trade-offs, foster synergies and improve coherence among the water, agriculture, land and energy sectors by including aspects of specific interest and priority to all members of a specific regional structure.

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<sup>3</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn313en/nn313en.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> This document is available at <http://www.fao.org/3/nn315en/nn315en.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> For more information, visit <https://agrovoc.fao.org/browse/agrovoc/en/index>.



- d) **Promote and take measures** to increase land and water productivity, fostering a conducive environment with strong political will and sound policies, for achieving food security, sustainable production and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.
  - e) **Develop and support** capacities to finance integrated land and water management projects by assessing and documenting their outcomes through systematic cost-benefit analyses to facilitate multisector investment and through developing business models that encourage public-private partnerships.
12. The Commission also:
- a) **Encouraged** FAO to use the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (WEFE Nexus)<sup>6</sup> approach by taking into account all these dimensions, especially when supporting intersectoral coordination and planning at the regional level.
  - b) **Invited** FAO to work with governments in developing collaborative frameworks to ensure inclusive and sustainable planning, financing, governance and implementation of transboundary water management and to tackle soil degradation to help ensure the conservation and quality of water and land resources and fulfil the SDGs.
13. The Commission noted a request that FAO make available all background documents and translations in a timely manner.

## **LAND GOVERNANCE AND LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

14. The Commission discussed the documents ECA/43/23/5<sup>7</sup> and ECA/43/23/6.<sup>8</sup>
15. The Commission made the following recommendations:
- a) **Integrate** the governance of tenure into natural resource management efforts, including land degradation neutrality (LDN), to achieve the sustainable management of agricultural land, forests, fisheries, rangelands, river basins and other natural resources.
  - b) **Adopt** a land and water nexus approach in an integrated way, recognizing the interlinkages between resources and coordinating the activities of institutions managing land and water resources to enhance their effects and avoid duplication.
  - c) **Strengthen** gender equality, increase access to land and the enjoyment of land rights for women, men and youth, improve the role of gender in achieving LDN, and ensure the involvement of women, men and youth in decision-making.
  - d) **Strengthen** monitoring capacities on LDN integrated with land governance, including agreeing upon a set of indicators to measure biophysical and socioeconomic characteristics.
  - e) **Strengthen** the security of tenure of land and water resources by reflecting the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)<sup>9</sup> principles in national policies so that legitimate tenure rights are recognized, respected and safeguarded.

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<sup>6</sup> Information on the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus is available at [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/climate-environment-and-energy/water-energy-food-ecosystem-nexus\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/climate-environment-and-energy/water-energy-food-ecosystem-nexus_en).

<sup>7</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn316en/nn316en.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn317en/nn317en.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-old/home/activities/vgg/en/>

- f) **Foster** the development and strengthening of agricultural land markets and increase private and public investments to manage land sustainably. Increase efforts to strengthen monitoring and policy tools to increase the security of tenure of land and water for farmers – particularly for smallholders – in the region.
  - g) **Apply** multipurpose land consolidation instruments for integrated land and water management to improve inefficient farm structures and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, LDN, nature restoration, enhanced biodiversity and improved environmental conditions. Ensure that land consolidation instruments mitigate potential negative trade-offs, such as the loss of biodiversity.
16. The Commission encouraged FAO to:
- a) **Promote** the utilization of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition and the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.
  - b) **Strengthen** evidence-based decision-making tools and further support the development of policies and programmes (building on the existing ones as far as possible) that enhance integrated and territorial approaches to achieving LDN and improved land governance while ensuring sustainable development and cooperation in the region.
  - c) **Consider** elements and principles of agroecology when developing and promoting solutions for the preservation and regeneration of soils as well as for water management.

## **IMPORTANCE OF WATER GOVERNANCE FOR ENHANCING WATER SECURITY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

17. The Commission discussed the document ECA/43/23/7.<sup>10</sup>
18. The Commission made the following recommendations:
- a) **Implement** concrete and urgent actions that will advance water security and water governance and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 6.
  - b) **Strengthen** intraregional cooperation by focusing on harmonizing legal frameworks and promoting mechanisms for consistent water governance.
  - c) **Promote** integrated approaches that aim for cohesive land and water management strategies, ensuring the participation of all stakeholders.
  - d) **Acknowledge** the need for efficient monitoring and early warning systems for the implementation of the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus approach.
  - e) **Secure** adequate financing by identifying mechanisms to support local water governance initiatives.
  - f) **Embrace** climate resilience and prioritize water use efficiency, productivity and sustainable farming to address the impacts of climate change on water resources.
  - g) **Ensure** transparency and accountability by implementing transparent water governance mechanisms that emphasize public participation, especially involving small family farmers.
  - h) **Improve** transboundary cooperation across water basins, including aquifers, and make water a key driver for sustainable development, green transition and peace.

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<sup>10</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn314en/nn314en.pdf>.

- i) **Foster** the use of advanced irrigation systems to reduce water waste and loss.
  - j) **Encourage** the introduction of crops that demand less water and are more suitable for cultivation in changing climatic conditions.
19. The Commission invited FAO to:
- a) **Foster** platforms for dialogue, knowledge sharing and joint decision-making among countries, regions and stakeholders and assist in the development of digitalized agriculture and monitoring systems.
  - b) **Allocate** resources for capacity-building programmes in water management and encourage cooperation among countries to share expertise and best practices.
  - c) **Explore** and **promote** innovative financing and water stewardship models involving public-private and international collaborations.
  - d) **Assist** countries in understanding the broader impacts of climate change on their water resources, support the creation of climate adaptation strategies and promote water efficiency measures.
  - e) **Promote** governance transparency by assisting countries in strengthening their enforcement mechanisms and ensuring compliance with water-related guidelines.
  - f) **Support** countries in the region with data collection and analysis related to climate change impacts, including water scarcity, droughts and floods.
  - g) **Support** governments in the region in taking effective measures to implement river basin and water governance reforms and **provide** sound technical information based on science and evidence.
  - h) **Pursue** its commitment and programmatic initiatives for a more sustainable and integrated management of soils and water by mobilizing the necessary resources through the involvement of international financial institutions, partners and Members.
20. The Commission **noted** that the background document ECA/43/23/7 omits information on some legislative acts of Georgia.

## **FAO'S RESPONSE TO THE MULTIPLE CRISES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

21. The Commission discussed the document ECA/43/23/8 Rev.1.<sup>11</sup>
22. The Commission<sup>12, 13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn302en/nn302en.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> The Commission noted the position of the Russian Federation in relation to the impact of negative effects of unilateral coercive measures/sanctions to regional and global food security, and decided, through a vote by show of hands, to include it as a footnote in the Session's report with the full statement as an annex, rather than in the body of the report. The full statement of the Russian Federation is contained in Appendix C of the report.

<sup>13</sup> The Russian Federation stated that according to the FAO Basic Texts and the terms of reference of the ECA, conflicts and their characterization with legal implications are not within the mandate of ECA. The Commission decided, through a roll call vote, to include this minority position of the Russian Federation as a footnote in the Session's report rather than in the body of the report. Roll call vote with total votes cast: 35, majority required: 22, votes for: 1, votes against: 34, abstentions: 0. Appendix D: Roll call vote Results Sheet.

- a) **Commended** FAO for its efforts in Ukraine and surrounding countries and appreciated that attention is also being paid to Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery.
- b) **Strongly condemned** Russia's aggression against Ukraine, its systematic attacks on port infrastructure, grain transport and storage facilities in Ukraine and called upon Russia to immediately cease hostilities in order to fully resume agricultural production and its unimpeded export from Ukraine.<sup>14</sup>
- c) **Expressed** preoccupation about the negative effects of the war in Ukraine on the trends in the region and globally, which present a paramount obstacle to progress, and stressed that not prolonging the "Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports", known as the "Black Sea Grain Initiative" will lead to increased food insecurity and malnutrition in the most vulnerable parts of the world.
- d) **Appreciated** FAO's response to mitigate and monitor the impact of the Russian Federation's war on food security globally and in Ukraine and recalled the decisions adopted by the FAO Council at its 169th, 171st and 172nd sessions and by the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Europe<sup>15</sup> and recalled the report of the 43rd FAO Conference<sup>16</sup> and stressed the need to continue their full implementation.

23. The Commission made the following recommendations:

- a) **Refrain** from isolating domestic food markets from global ones and **engage** in collective formulation of trade agreements that enhance Members' resilience to shocks.
- b) **Provide** humanitarian and social protection responses to vulnerable groups in Türkiye and Ukraine to enable the transition to more sustainable and resilient practices and **open** opportunities for Ukrainian refugees to find employment in the agricultural and other sectors in host countries and to contribute to enhancing production and productivity.
- c) **Promote** the affordability of healthy diets through comprehensive policy measures and multisectoral collaboration and coordination of policies in food systems, repurposing existing public support to food and agriculture and shifting subsidies from producers to consumers.
- d) **Refrain** from imposing ad hoc export restrictions that disrupt the functioning of markets, increase commodity prices and exacerbate food insecurity and **ensure** the stability of food supplies by diversifying sources of imported foods.
- e) **Enhance** trade infrastructure and logistics to simplify, modernize and harmonize export and import processes across the region.
- f) **Speed up** the adoption by members of the World Trade Organization of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, which includes provisions aimed at expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods.
- g) **Promote** responsible agricultural investments for increased resilience and productivity that support food security for rural communities, particularly those facing acute insecurity. Inclusive measures should target vulnerable groups considering gender, socioeconomic status and ethnicity. **Implement** policies that empower rural women and youth in income-generating opportunities, reducing inequalities. In countries with high Ukrainian refugee populations,

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The Commission also decided, through a roll call vote, the phrasing of the footnote. Roll call vote with total votes cast: 35, majority required: 22, votes for: 1, votes against: 34, abstentions: 0. Appendix E: Roll call vote Results Sheet.

<sup>14</sup> The Commission decided to include this paragraph in the report by a roll call vote. Roll call vote with total votes cast: 35, majority required: 22, votes for: 34, votes against: 1, abstentions: 0. Appendix F: Roll call vote Results Sheet.

<sup>15</sup> The Russian Federation opposed the Conference's endorsement of the decision contained in the report on the work of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), as well as paragraph 40 (o) of the report.

<sup>16</sup> The Russian Federation opposed the Conference's endorsement of the decisions contained in the reports of the 169th, 171st and 172nd Sessions of the FAO Council.

**provide** skills and language training for integration into agrifood systems, along with essential childcare support for parents.

- h) **Invest in** and **promote** the use of digital technologies in the food and agriculture sectors – including precision agriculture technologies, digital platforms on price information and new market opportunities and distribution channels, digitalization of inspection and certification procedures – and **leverage** digital tools to monitor and analyse the impacts of war on agriculture and make informed decisions to enhance food security and agricultural production.
- i) **Establish** and **strengthen** veterinary services and livestock disease surveillance systems by investing in training, infrastructure and resources to build the capacity of veterinary professionals, promoting such sustainable agricultural practices as better feed management and rangeland conservation.
- j) **Strengthen** information, assessment and analysis tools for food security and nutrition to ensure the availability and sharing of up-to-date information and gender-disaggregated statistics to better inform nutrition and food safety policies and programmes at global, national and subnational levels.
- k) **Develop** new (or improve existing) national food security strategies that not only address the short-term consequences of shocks but also build back better from crises, addressing both the practical and strategic needs of the most affected people and adopting holistic approaches to improve long-term resilience in agrifood systems and enable the consumption of affordable healthy diets.
- l) **Promote** regional cooperation in science and innovation and **foster** knowledge and experience sharing among research institutions, universities and the private sector to enhance the resilience of agrifood systems.

24. The Commission:

- a) **Underlined** the importance of FAO's efforts to increase gender equality in the region.
- b) **Underlined** its outreach work, such as its collaboration with the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- c) **Suggested** that the next ECA session review the topics of: i) the urban environment food system; ii) the situation of credits for investments in the agricultural sector; and iii) the uptake of the advice given in the FAO policy briefs for the region.

## **ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE REGION: UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE**

25. The Commission discussed the document ECA/43/23/9.<sup>17</sup>

26. The Commission recommended that **FAO and Members**:

- a) **Reflect** gender perspectives and include the collective views and priorities of rural women when developing normative, legal and policy frameworks and **ensure** that rural women are not further deprioritized in public policy and budget allocations.
- b) **Strengthen** the evidence base and gender statistics relevant to agriculture and rural development so that policymaking and programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation are gender responsive and, thus, effective and sustainable.

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<sup>17</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn261en/nn261en.pdf>.

- c) **Further support** empowering rural women as leaders in their households, as farmers and as stakeholders in rural development to participate in governance at all levels and **include** rural women from diverse backgrounds in strategic planning and decision-making.
- d) **Improve** women's access to inputs and resources by conducting precise analyses of gender gaps so that interventions can be designed to remove structural barriers.
- e) **Develop targeted** economic policies and programmes that provide rural women with diverse and sustainable opportunities for income generation through decent work, entrepreneurship and inclusive value chains, and by reducing the gender pay gap and women's unpaid workload.
- f) **Adopt** transformative social protection policies that have the potential to improve rural women's lives and livelihoods, recognize the role of women in unpaid domestic and care work and reduce this burden.
- g) **Improve** women's access to land, to agricultural means of production and to financial services and investment in girls' education and professional opportunities for women. These policies must be accompanied by investments to improve physical and social infrastructure in rural areas and by social protection measures, including childhood protection mechanisms, that, in addition to favouring the empowerment of rural women, also will result in the right to food and contribute to strengthening community resilience.
- h) **Continue** to deepen intersectoral dialogue among ministries and other stakeholders on gender issues in food and agricultural systems.
- i) **Recall** the need to pay special attention to gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of humanitarian emergencies, climate crises and conflicts and considering children, who may constitute up to half of the affected population during crises and emergencies and whose care continues to fall primarily on women.

27. The Commission recommended that Members:

- a) **Support** the advocacy initiatives of FAO around the above priority areas and **commit** to taking concrete actions to end persistent inequalities that are holding back progress towards achieving sustainable agriculture and food security, and ending poverty.
- b) **Invest** in physical and social infrastructure in rural areas to reduce the burden of women's unpaid domestic and care work.
- c) **Stress** the crucial role of men in achieving gender equality and recognize and address gender-based violence and precarious working conditions in the agriculture sector.
- d) **Conduct** thorough analyses of gender gaps and their root causes so that interventions address structural barriers that rural women face in accessing resources, including the inputs, knowledge and skills that are critical for agricultural production.

28. The Commission **recommended that FAO prioritize** gender-responsive approaches and increase support for more effective gender mainstreaming of agricultural and rural development throughout technical assistance.

**PROGRESS MADE BY THE FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE  
AND CENTRAL ASIA ON THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE ECA**

29. The Commission discussed the document ECA/43/23/10.<sup>18</sup>
30. The Commission took note of the progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the main recommendations of the Forty-second Session of the ECA and:
- a) **Noted** and **welcomed** the remarkable number of food systems-related activities in several countries and the attention given to the issue of food systems transformation within the Europe and Central Asia region by the FAO Regional Office.
  - b) **Encouraged** FAO to continue to advocate for and maintain the political will to work coherently and holistically on food systems transformation and collaboration with other development partners.
  - c) **Stressed** the importance of reorienting agricultural policies and reconciling the objectives of sustainable agriculture and food systems, agricultural competitiveness and food security and nutrition with the challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity loss.
  - d) **Noted** the need to continue efforts to facilitate cooperation and partnerships – particularly in the area of land and water management and governance – for the effective management of these natural resources, as they are key to addressing water scarcity and climate change adversities.
  - e) **Noted** the need for a holistic approach that addresses inequalities in food systems, promotes human-rights-based approaches and especially empowers vulnerable and marginalized groups, in the context of social sustainability in order to provide affordable, sustainable and healthy diets for all. Empowering youth as agents of change and contributors to shaping food systems was also highlighted.
  - f) **Welcomed** taking Committee on World Food Security (CFS) policy products as a key reference in this transformation process, such as: i) the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition; ii) Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems; and iii) Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems.
  - g) **Agreed** that food systems also need to consider urban food systems, as cities are at the heart of this transformation, as stated in 2023 edition of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report.
  - h) **Welcomed** the progress made in monitoring, data collection and analysis for up-to-date information on food systems that have been facing multiple shocks, including adverse weather events, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine – issues already expressed in background document ECA/43/23/8 Rev.1.
  - i) **Noted** the key role of monitoring the situation and implementing interventions in mitigating the adverse consequences, bolstering the resilience of food systems, and reminded the upcoming CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition Data and Related Analysis Tools in this context.
  - j) **Stressed** the importance of further promoting food systems policies that increase the availability of safe and nutritious foods, make sustainable and healthy diets more affordable, and empower consumers to make healthy food choices and **welcomed** that improving consumers' food literacy is an FAO priority in the region.

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<sup>18</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn341en/nn341en.pdf>.

- k) **Encouraged** FAO to develop the true cost approach and to work on the reform of public incentives and subsidies.
- l) **Requested** that FAO strengthen actions for fighting food loss and waste and **encouraged** FAO to follow up on recommendations on supporting sustainable natural resources management, fisheries and aquaculture, promoting the One Health approach, and emphasising food safety as part of a healthy diet.
- m) **Welcomed** the inclusion of the six main areas of action identified in the UNSG Call to Action<sup>19</sup> at the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in future actions by FAO, in particular with regard to the integration of food systems strategies into national policies related to sustainable development, nutrition and health, economic growth, climate and nature, promoting inclusive and participatory forms of governance and strengthening the participation of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.
- n) **Encouraged** FAO to use agroecology more widely as an inclusive and effective approach to transforming food systems. Invited FAO Members to join the Agroecology Coalition and strengthen collective action in the field of agroecology.
- o) **Noted** that biodiversity loss is one of the three crises (climate, biodiversity and pollution) and encouraged Members to consider the recent Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the FAO strategy “Mainstreaming biodiversity in all sectors” in their efforts to transform food systems.

## **AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECA**

31. The Commission reviewed the proposal presented to amend the Rules of Procedure of the European Commission on Agriculture and appreciated the work of the current Executive Committee and the FAO Secretariat which, together, prepared the document in close consultation with FAO Legal Counsel.

32. The Commission approved the revised Rules of Procedure of the ECA as stated in the document ECA/43/23/11<sup>20</sup>, with the additional editorial change in Rule III.1 (replacement of the words “her/his” with the word “their”) that had not been included in the document.

## **ELECTION OF THE ECA CHAIRPERSON, THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

33. The Commission elected Ms Lidija Popandonova (North Macedonia) as the Chairperson of the European Commission on Agriculture, Mr Serkos A. Haroutounian (Greece) as the First Vice-Chairperson, and Mr Andrea Angeli (Italy) as the Second Vice-Chairpersons of the ECA.

34. The Commission, through a secret ballot<sup>21</sup>, elected Mr Roman Diatka (Czechia), Mr Michel Lévêque (France), Ms Evelin Lantos (Hungary), Ms Liliana Martin (Republic of Moldova), Ms Terezia Kramolišová (Slovakia), and Mr Yuriy Grynevetskyi (Ukraine), as members of the Executive Committee.

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<sup>19</sup> Information on UN Secretary-General Call to Action is available at <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/documentation/un-secretary-general-call-to-action/en>.

<sup>20</sup> This document is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nn060en/nn060en.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Appendix G: Secret ballot vote result sheet.



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## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

35. The Commission made no additional comments on the Information Notes under Any Other Business, and noted the presented Information Notes as stated in ECA/43/23/INF/4, ECA/43/23/INF/5 and ECA/43/123/INF/6.

## **DATE AND PLACE OF THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE ECA**

36. The Commission welcomed the offer of Hungary to host the Forty-fourth Session of the ECA in Budapest in 2025. The Session should be held at least six months prior to the 35th Regional Conference for Europe. Tentatively, the Forty-fourth Session of ECA has been planned to be held in Budapest, Hungary, between 30 September and 3 October 2025.

## **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION**

37. The report of the Session was adopted en bloc<sup>22</sup> on 27 November 2023 with amendments under paragraph 22.

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<sup>22</sup> Roll call vote with total votes cast: 35, majority required: 22, votes for: 34, votes against: 1, abstentions: 0.  
Appendix E: Roll call vote Results Sheet.

## ANNOTATED AGENDA

### I. Introductory items

1. **Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable**
2. **Election of the Rapporteurs**

### II. Main technical theme:

#### **Sustainable use of land and water resources in Europe and Central Asia**

#### 3. **Sustainable use of land and water resources in Europe and Central Asia**

The topic aims to explore in an integrated way challenges linked to the sustainable use of land and water resources in Europe and Central Asia. Land degradation, soil salinity, lack of proper land tenure mechanisms, water stress and climate change are among the main issues at the regional level. Extreme events, such as droughts and flash floods, have become a reality in many countries, showing that proper water management and governance are necessary and must be done in an integrated and transborder way, together with sustainable land and soil management and the proper governance of land tenure. The innovative perspective is to connect these topics at a higher level and have a multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach.

A regional approach to policy guidance and governance structures for land and water is necessary to ensure the sustainable use of these natural resources. It would also contribute to a more resilient food system and promote ecosystem services and the conservation of biodiversity in the region. This would allow countries to strengthen their production of goods and services in a sustainable way, improve nutrition and livelihoods and share good practices, experiences and lessons learned, thus contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG Target 6.4 and SDG Target 15.3.

Integrated land and water resource management and governance are essential to the sustainable use of land and water resources. The Commission will be invited to explore these issues in depth as subtopics of the main technical theme. Each subtopic will also consider cross-cutting aspects of the land and water nexus, in particular climate change, biodiversity, gender and food security.

#### 4. **Enhancing the resilience and sustainability of national agri-food systems through integrated land and water resources management in Europe and Central Asia**

Land and water are essential to sustainable agricultural development. Hence, a number of countries in Europe and Central Asia are characterized as water stressed and increasingly impacted by land degradation and soil salinity. Accordingly, growing pressure on limited water resources leads to fierce competition for water among all sectors, reducing the availability of water for sustainable agrifood systems and affecting water, energy, food security and land use and tenure systems. Forest degradation further exacerbates the problem, as forests play a key role in water security and water regulation, including for agricultural needs.

On the other hand, progress in the implementation of reformed policies in the agrifood sector has varied among countries, as they still struggle with challenges in identifying properly functioning legal and practical settings for intersectoral coordination. Analysing the performance of these policies and facilitating the development of improved, integrated land and water policies in the agrifood sector will lead to the enhancement of the sustainable management of both land and water resources in the region.

Integrated land and water resource management will also impact and be impacted by several cross-cutting dimensions. Appropriate governance can only be in place if gender dimensions are properly considered and addressed. In addition, land and water resource management will consider climate change, biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem restoration and food security.

Members are invited to share their experience in addressing integrated land and water resource management and possible policy recommendations to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **5. Land governance and land degradation neutrality in Europe and Central Asia**

Non-transparent land governance systems, land fragmentation and ineffective land use are common problems in several countries of the region. Under this subtopic, the Commission is invited to explore how land governance and land tenure can be enhanced as part of integrated approach to the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular through large-scale interventions on the management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation. The potential of multipurpose land consolidation and land banking based on good practices in countries in Western Europe will also be discussed.

Given that sustainable land governance is closely intertwined with achieving and enabling land degradation neutrality, the second part of this subtopic will focus on land degradation neutrality. Driven by biophysical and socioeconomic factors and exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, the degradation of land and natural resources is one of the greatest challenges faced by several countries in the region. Although all countries in the region are members of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, not all have set land degradation neutrality targets, and for all of them the implementation of the convention still presents challenges.

Restoring degraded land is vital for countries to achieve multiple national and international priorities on mitigating climate change, improving livelihoods, reducing desertification, restoring ecosystems and conserving biodiversity. A strong system needs to be put in place for monitoring land degradation neutrality in the region, jointly with the strengthening of institutional capacities and designing an adequate policy framework.

Members are invited to share their experiences on how land governance and land tenure can contribute to the transformation of agrifood systems in the region while considering the restoration of degraded land and ensuring land degradation neutrality. Emphasis also should be given to policy recommendations supporting sustainable land management.

## **6. Importance of water governance for enhancing water security in Europe and Central Asia**

Water scarcity and droughts in some countries and floods and flash floods in others have become a reality in the Europe and Central Asia region. In addition, the uneven water distribution at different scales (among regions and societal groups) has provided multiple sources of tension and affected agrifood systems.

Improving water management requires rethinking water issues through multiple perspectives and strategically using cooperative partnerships and deliberative processes with landscape and “water-centred” management approaches. A multilevel approach may cover several levels of water management hierarchy. The aim is to manage the interdependencies among stakeholders, with the overall goal of contributing to more secure livelihoods, increased environmental sustainability and greater social harmony, considering the nexus of climate change, gender and biodiversity. Most of the countries in the region have shifted their national water governance systems to the basin level and developed laws and regulations for establishing basin management structures, but they still have the challenge of identifying properly functioning legal and practical settings for the intersectoral coordination and allocation of water resources at the national level.

Further enhancement of regional capacity for dialogue and the exchange of experiences and expertise in water policy development and implementation is recommended to achieve water security, including transboundary water management and cooperation. Therefore, the Commission is invited to discuss the dimensions (social, ecological, political and environmental) and levels (macro, meso and micro) of water management, along with associated drivers and management practices, including the importance of transboundary cooperation and water financing (under the macro level of governance), paradiplomacy (under the meso level of governance) and improving water use efficiency (under the micro level of governance). Members also are invited to share their experiences.

### **III. Other matters**

#### **7. FAO's response to the multiple crises in Europe and Central Asia**

The Europe and Central Asia region has been affected by multiple crises stemming from the war in Ukraine, the effects of climate change and, most recently, the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye in early February 2023, resulting in a triple crisis in food, energy and finance. The impacts have included steeply rising food and energy prices, accelerated inflation, tightening financial conditions, increased import bills, disrupted food supply chains, damaged logistics and infrastructure, and threatened food security in the region. High retail prices of food, gas and petroleum products remain a major concern. Overall inflation has generally slowed since the peak in the first half of 2022, but food inflation remains high. The most vulnerable countries in the region, including Türkiye and countries in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, are the most affected by the multiple crises, particularly the poorest segments of the population.

In response to the multiple crises, FAO has provided short-term and medium-term support to the affected countries in the region. The Commission will be invited to assess FAO's responses to the multiple crises in the region over the past two years and to provide recommendations for improving the Organization's interventions to better serve the needs of the affected countries and strengthen their resilience.

#### **8. Advancing gender equality in the region: update on the progress made**

This is a standing agenda item for all sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture. The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia Gender Team will provide an update on the work of the Regional Office in meeting its commitments in mainstreaming gender equality concerns in its development interventions, as well as in specific activities aimed at advancing rural gender equality in the region through knowledge building, dialogue and policy advice. A background paper will summarize key gender and agriculture issues and share the findings of a review of country gender assessments conducted in the region over the past two years, reflecting regional trends and the situation of rural women in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members will be invited to review FAO's efforts to address gender equality in the region and to present their views and share country practices and cases regarding the mainstreaming of gender concerns in agriculture, food security and malnutrition in their respective countries.

#### **9. Progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the main recommendations of the Forty-second Session of the ECA**

Following the recommendations on transforming food systems to address malnutrition, which were adopted by the Forty-second Session of the European Commission on Agriculture in January 2022, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia will present an update on recent activities carried out by the Organization in Europe and Central Asia related to the implementation of the recommendations. The Commission will be invited to note the report and provide comments as deemed appropriate.

## **10. Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the ECA**

In line with Rule XII of the Rules of Procedure of the European Commission on Agriculture, the commission will be invited to consider the amendments to the Rules of Procedure as presented. The amendments aim to ensure that the provisions of the Rules of Procedure fully respect the FAO gender equality policies, to strengthen the provisions on replacement of outgoing members of the Committee, and to establish a clear provision on quorum for decisions by the Executive Committee.

## **11. Election of the ECA Chairperson, the first and second Vice-Chairpersons and the other members of the Executive Committee**

According to Rule II and Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Commission on Agriculture, the Commission will be invited to elect from among the representatives the Chairperson of the ECA, the first Vice-Chairperson of the ECA, the second Vice-Chairperson of the ECA, and six other members of the Executive Committee, for a term of two years.

## **12. Any other business**

## **13. Date and place of the Forty-fourth Session of the ECA**

## **14. Review and adoption of the report of the Session**

### **Closing of the Session**

### **Information items**

#### **Advancing the digital transformation of agriculture and rural areas through national strategies, e-Government systems, and Digital Villages - update for Europe and Central Asia**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the 1 000 Digital Villages Initiative to promote digital innovations to support inclusive, gender-sensitive rural development and sustainable agrifood transformation in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, FAO harnesses the power of information and communications technology to pilot, accelerate and scale innovative ideas with a high potential for impact in food and agriculture, transforming e-agriculture solutions and services into global public goods.

The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) recognizes the pivotal role of e-agriculture in accelerating the transformation of agrifood systems, overcoming challenges arising from global crises and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To respond to these challenges and demands, FAO in Europe and Central Asia presented its strategic priorities for e-agriculture as defined in its “Digital REU 2022–2030” approach, which prioritizes inclusive rural transformation, digitalization and innovation to empower smallholders, family farms and youth.

FAO in Europe and Central Asia plays a crucial role in expediting the attainment of these priorities by providing assistance to institutions and stakeholders in the region in developing and executing transformative digitalization initiatives.

The background document will provide information on the initiatives undertaken, the progress made and the challenges and lessons learned for Europe and Central Asia to accelerate the digital transformation of the agriculture sector in the region.

The Commission is invited to take note of the initiatives and progress made.

#### **Integration of science and innovation into regional priorities for enhancing agri-food system transformation - Progress in implementation of the Action Plan in Europe and Central Asia**

The FAO Science and Innovation Strategy was adopted by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Seventieth Session following an inclusive and transparent consultative process<sup>23</sup> and embedded as crosscutting issues in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031. It is a tool to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A global action plan has been developed that presents the key elements of FAO's extensive work in science and innovation. The plan is based on the Science and Innovation Strategy's three pillars, nine outcomes and two enablers. The high-level framework for the development of regional action plans, shared with the technical committees in 2022, contained a proposed number of outputs that were further revised based on feedback from the Regional, Subregional and Country Offices and all relevant FAO streams.

Building on the Science and Innovation Consultation in the region held in 2021, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia developed and validated the regional focus of the FAO Action Plan for the Science and Innovation Strategy through 2025 to enable the transformative potential and accelerate the capacity of science, technology and innovation through coordinated and collective action at regional and national levels.

The background document will outline that science and innovation are essential parts of finding solutions to address the priorities of FAO's work across Europe and Central Asia. It will also describe the key focus of the regional action plan, provide information on the progress of its implementation and share highlights, challenges faced and lessons learned.

The Commission is invited to take note of the progress of the Regional Action Plan's implementation.

### **Food systems transformation in Europe and Central Asia - Information on FAO's work in the region**

There is growing evidence in the Europe and Central Asia region that the food and agriculture sector's performance needs to improve to overcome multiple challenges related to food insecurity, malnutrition and inequalities and to minimize environmental stress.

Members acknowledge the importance of holistic food systems transformation to overcoming these challenges and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Within the Europe and Central Asia region, food systems vary in terms of level of development, structural characteristics and natural resource availability.

The United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021 and its follow-up process towards the 2023 United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment brought increased attention to the need to transform our food systems as key to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through a holistic approach, involving the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

FAO is actively supporting countries in the region in the development and implementation of national pathways, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, through comprehensive food system assessments and actionable evidence-based policies, technical capacity development initiatives, and knowledge sharing.

The background document will provide updated information related to the work carried out by FAO to support countries in accelerating food systems transformation.

The Commission is invited to take note of the progress and initiatives.

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<sup>23</sup> The Report of the Hundred and Seventieth Session of the FAO Council is available at <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/council/cl170/report-of-the-170th-session-of-the-council/en/>.

**Appendix B****LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

ECA/43/23/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ECA/43/23/2	Provisional Timetable
ECA/43/23/3	Sustainable use of land and water resources in Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/4	Enhancing the resilience and sustainability of national agri-food systems through integrated land and water resources management in Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/5	Governance of tenure in the context of integrated land and water management in Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/6	Overview of land degradation neutrality in Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/7	Importance of water governance for enhancing water security in Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/8	FAO's response to the multiple crises in Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/9	Advancing gender equality in the region: update on the progress made
ECA/43/23/10	Progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the main recommendations of the Forty-second Session of the ECA
ECA/43/23/11	Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the ECA
ECA/43/23/12	Election of the ECA Chairperson, the first and second Vice-Chairpersons and the other members of the Executive Committee

INF SERIES

ECA/43/23/INF/1	Provisional List of Documents
ECA/43/23/INF/2	Information Note
ECA/43/23/INF/3	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States
ECA/43/23/INF/4	Advancing the digital transformation of agriculture and rural areas through national strategies, e-Government systems, and Digital Villages - update for Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/INF/5	Integration of science and innovation into regional priorities for enhancing agri-food system transformation - Progress in implementation of the Action Plan in Europe and Central Asia
ECA/43/23/INF/6	Food systems transformation in Europe and Central Asia - Information on FAO's work in the region



**Appendix C****STATEMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION UNDER AGENDA ITEM  
7 “FAO’S RESPONSE TO THE MULTIPLE CRISES IN EUROPE AND  
CENTRAL ASIA”**

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last several years, despite all efforts, the environmental situation in the Europe and Central Asia region has left much to be desired. This is due to both climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as multiple crises.

It is categorically unacceptable to accuse Russia of provoking hunger and worsening the food security situation in the region and the world. We would like you to know that for the current agricultural season, the International Grains Council has increased its forecast for wheat exports from Russia to 48.6 million tonnes, and if we consider all types of grain, that figure increases to 58.6 million tonnes. The forecast for next season’s harvest is 128 million tonnes, including 87 million tonnes of wheat, without even taking Crimea into account. Following the Second Russia-Africa Summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin clearly stated that Russia would provide countries in need with the necessary amounts of food. By accusing us, the European Union is attempting to cover up its own destructive influence on global food markets, primarily due to its imposing over 10 000 unilateral economic sanctions against Russia, a major and independent participant in global trade. The European Commission’s explanations that its sanctions against Russia have no impact on global food security are a mere fig leaf. In fact, the EU’s sanctions are not only harming the entire world, including countries in need, but also its own agricultural producers, as they are deprived of affordable and quality fertilizers, fuel, and lubricants.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia has diligently fulfilled its obligations under the Black Sea Grain Initiative. However, rather than aiding African, Asian and Latin American countries in need, this initiative has morphed into a purely commercial export of Ukrainian foodstuffs to countries that already have an ample food supply. Against this backdrop, the situation of Russian food and fertilizer supplies has degraded on global markets. All the while, the EU has continued to expand its sanctions war against Russia. Not one of the five systemic issues were resolved, despite the fact that doing so would remove obstacles to agricultural exports from Russia. The decisions of the 169th, 171st and 172nd Sessions of the FAO Council and the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe were reached through a vote, rather than consensus.

We hope that the Secretariat will be balanced in reflecting the discussion that took place and countries’ different approaches to assessing the current crisis in Europe and Central Asia.

Thank you for your attention.

## Appendix D

**ROLL CALL VOTE RESULT SHEET**43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE, 27 November 2023**VOTE RESULT SHEET**

Proposal: to reflect the minority view of the Russian Federation as a paragraph in the Report of the Session

27 November 2023, 11:30

**RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS/ РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ****Roll Call Vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal/ Поименное голосование**

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos/ Количество поданных голосов	35
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida/ Требуемое большинство	18
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favour/ Голоса за	1
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra/ Голоса против	34
Abstentions/ Abstenciones/ Воздержавшиеся	0

**Votes for:** Russian Federation  
**Votes pour:**  
**Votos en favor:**  
**Голоса за:**

**Votes against:** Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom  
**Votes contre:**  
**Votos en contra:**

**Abstentions:**  
**Abstenciones:**  
**Воздержавшиеся:**

**No reply:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Monaco, Norway, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan  
**Aucune réponse:**  
**Ninguna respuesta:**  
**Без ответа:**

**REJECTED/REPOUSÉE/RECHAZADA/ОТКЛОНЕНО**

**Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électorale/ El oficial de elecciones/ Сотрудник, ответственный за проведение голосования**



## Appendix E

## ROLL CALL VOTE RESULT SHEET

43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE, 27 November 2023

## VOTE RESULT SHEET

Proposal: to commence the minority view of the Russian Federation with the words "*The Commission noted..*"

27 November 2023, 13:30

~~RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS/РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ~~

ioe **Roll Call Vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal/ Поименное голосование**

35	Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos/ Количество поданных голосов
18	Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida/ Требуемое большинство
1	Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favour/ Голоса за
34	Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra/ Голоса против
0	Abstentions/ Abstenciones/ Воздержавшиеся
	<b>Votes for:</b> Russian Federation
	<b>Votes pour:</b>
	<b>Votos en favor:</b>
	<b>Голоса за:</b>
orgia, Germany, negro, Netherlands, nia, Spain, Sweden,	<b>Votes against:</b> Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom
	<b>Votes contre:</b>
	<b>Votos en contra:</b>
	<b>Голоса против:</b>
	<b>Abstentions:</b> -
	<b>Abstenciones:</b>
	<b>Воздержавшиеся:</b>
onaco, Norway,	<b>No reply:</b> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan
	<b>Aucune réponse:</b>
	<b>Ninguna respuesta:</b>
	<b>Без ответа:</b>

## REJECTED/REPOUSÉE/RECHAZADA/ОТКЛОНЕНО

рудник, Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électorale/ El oficial de elecciones/ Сотответственный за проведение голосования



**Appendix F**

**ROLL CALL VOTE RESULT SHEET**

**43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE, 27 November 2023**

**VOTE RESULT SHEET**

Proposal: to insert into the Report of the Session a text proposal from Ukraine

27 November 2023, 11:00

**RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS/ РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ**

**Commissio Roll Call Vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal/ По голосованию**

Item	Yes	Number of votes cast/ Nombre de sufragios registrados/ Número de votos emitidos	(Other names)
Proposed by: [Name]	35		
Amended by: [Name]			
Amended by: [Name]			
Amended by: [Name]			
Amended by: [Name]			

**Votes-for: Votes pour: Votos en favor: Голоса-против**  
**Votes-against: Votos en contra: Голоса-против**

**Abstentions: Abstenciones: Воздержавшиеся:**

**ADOPTED/ADOPTÉE/ACERTADA/ПРИНЯТО** **ADOP**

**Commissionaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones/ Сотрудник,** **Elections Officer/ Funcionario**  
**responsable de la realización de los votos** **responsable de las elecciones**

[Signature]

Appendix G

**SECRET BALLOT VOTE RESULT SHEET**

43 <sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE, BUDAPEST, 27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023		
REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	<b>1</b>	ELECT ON OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 2023 - 2025 ELECT ON DES MEMBRES DU COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF, 2023 - 2025 ELECCIÓN DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL DEL COMITÉ EJECUTIVO, 2023 - 2025

1. Ballot papers deposited	37
2. Abstentions	0
3. Defective ballots	0

4. Members casting valid votes	37
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5. Majority	19
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Elected – Élu(s) – Elegido(s)		Not elected – Pas élu(s) – No elegido(s)		Eliminated – Eiliminé(s) – Eliminado(s)	
Mr Roman DIATKA (Czechia )	37	Mr Murat TEMIRZHANOV (Kazakhstan)	10		
Ms Evelin LANTOS (Hungary)	37				
Ms Terézia KRAMOLIŠOVÁ (Slovakia)	37				
Mr Michel LEVEQUE (France)	35				
Ms Liliana MARTIN (Republic of Moldova)	34				
Mr Yuriy GRYNEVETSKYI (Ukraine)	32				

**Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores**

Mr Branko SARAC (Montenegro)

Signature..... *B. Sarac*  
Date..... 28.09.23

Mr Gonzalo EIRIZ (Spain)

Signature..... *G. Eiriz*  
Date..... 28.09.23

Mr Ilja Betlem, Elections Officer, FAO

Signature..... *Ilja Betlem*  
Date..... 20/9/2023

Appendix H

**ROLL CALL VOTE RESULT SHEET**

43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE, 27 November 2023

**VOTE RESULT SHEET**

Proposal: to adopt the draft Report of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session *en bloc*

27 November 2023, 13:45

**RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS/ РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ**

**Roll Call Vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal/ Поименное**

VOTES		Number of votes cast	Number of members of the Commission present
Votants		Nº de votants	Nº de membres de la Commission présents
Votantes		Nº de votantes	Nº de membros da Comissão presentes
Голосовавшие		Число голосовавших	Число членов Комиссии присутствующих
Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	Votes for Votes pour votos em favor Голосов за	38	38
	Votes against Votes contre votos em contra Голосов против	0	0
	Abstentions Abstencions Ausências Abstentions	0	0
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Monaco, Norway, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine	No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta Без ответа	0	0

**Appendix I****STATEMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOLLOWING THE  
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE 43RD SESSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE**

The Russian Federation is honoured to make the following statement regarding the adoption of the report of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture and requests it be reflected as an annex to the report.

The Russian Federation is deeply satisfied with the work of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ECA, and particularly the way in which the adoption of the report was conducted today. The EU and its Member States have demonstrated what a “rules-based order” truly represents, in short, changing the rules of procedure and established practices as they go, and reshaping them to suit their own interests. Even as they hold a numerical majority in the Commission, the EU and its Member States refused to include any points of view differing from their own in the report and chose to vote for the report in its entirety. We view this as nothing more than an admission of weakness. True strength does not cower behind the majority and it does not refuse to listen to alternative points of view.

I thank everyone for their work.