



КОНСУЛТАТИВЕН СЪВЕТ ЗА ЧЕРНО МОРЕ
/КСЧМ/

CONSILIUL CONSULTATIV PENTRU MAREA
NEAGRA

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Minutes

BISAC ExCom meeting

/02.10.2020/

On October 2 in Varna, Astor Garden Hotel. St. Konstantin and Elena, starting at 10.30 am, a meeting of the Executive Committee of BISAC was held with the following agenda:

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chairman of the CCMS, election of a moderator of the meeting, minutes and counter of the votes.
2. Determining the place, date, time and agenda for the General Assembly of the BLSAC;
3. Proposals for meetings in 2021. Topics for the Working Groups;
4. Presentation of the draft budget for 2021;
5. Proposals and comments for the Work Program for 2021;
6. Discussions on the financial condition of BISAC. Paid membership fee for 2020;
7. Procedural rules of BISAC discussions, changes - good practices from other ACs;
8. Others;

In addition to members of the BISAC, Ms. Pascale Colson, a representative of the European Commission from DG MARE, participated in the meeting via video link.

Item 1 of the agenda: The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the BISAC Dr. Yordan Gospodinov. There was a quorum. Seven out of ten members of the Executive Committee were present. Mr. Yordan Gospodinov was proposed as the moderator of the meeting, and Ms. Elena Peneva as the rapporteur and votes counter.

The proposal was put to the vote: **Voted FOR - 7 votes.**

Under **item 2** of the agenda: It was proposed that the General Assembly of the BISAC be held in Romania, Constanta on 11 and 12 November, provided that if these dates coincide with the meeting of the Advisory Councils scheduled for early November, the dates will be changed to 3 and 4.11.2020.

Agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly:

1. Opening of a meeting
2. Adoption of the Work Program of the BISAC for 2021;
3. Adoption of the budget of the BISAC for 2021;
4. Determining the amount of the membership fee to the BISAC for 2021;
5. Selection of a registered auditor;
6. Admission / dismissal of members of the BISAC;
7. Adoption of new procedural rules;
8. Others.

The proposal was put to the vote: **Voted FOR - 7 votes.**

Under **item 3** of the agenda: For 2021 BISAC plans to work four working groups (WG) and two focus groups (FG) with the following topics for consideration:

- WG 1 - Aquaculture in the Black Sea - new opportunities;
- WG 2 - Proposal for fisheries management plans within the network of protected marine areas NATURA 2000 - follow - up from 2020;
- WG 3 - Recreational fishing - legal format, impacts, interactions;
- WG4 - Socio-economic value of fishing in the Black Sea.
- FG 1 - Fishing of *Rapana* - scientific data, resource value for the Black Sea, comparative analysis of different views;
- FG 2 - Marine litter - mapping, joint actions for Romania and Bulgaria.

In the working groups in 2021, more general topics are set, while the focus groups will deal with more specific issues. This is done in order to orient the work of the BISAC to better results and more accurate recommendations.

Mr. Marian Paiu suggests adding another to the Focus Groups to address the topic: marine fisheries and the Covid pandemic - activities and needs.

In Bulgaria, fishermen and processing companies are already receiving state aid to deal with the Covid crisis. So far, the Romanian state has granted such aid only to the aquaculture sector, and fisheries remain neglected.

The proposed working and focus groups are subject to voting: **Voted FOR - 7 votes.**

Under **item 4** of the agenda: Ms. Mihaela Mirea presented the budget prepared by the Secretariat of the BISAC, which for 2021 amounts to a total of EUR 177,050. This means that the revenue from membership fees for 2021 should amount to EUR 17 705.

The following are comments: Mr. Danko Penev: The amount of membership fees is too large for fishing associations, as well as for associations of small-scale fishermen. Consider a smaller amount of membership fees, which is possible if Member States support the BISAC.

The presented draft budget was put to the vote: **Voted FOR - 7 votes.**

Under **item 5** of the agenda: A draft of the Work Program of the BISAC for 2021 was presented, which was put to a vote: **Voted FOR - 7 votes.**

Under **item 6** of the agenda: Ms. Ivelina Balanova presented the financial condition of BISAC at the moment. The membership fee collected so far amounts to EUR 12,534, and two of the organizations have not paid their due amounts in full:

Friends of the Black Sea Association;

Association of Fishery Traders - Tomis.

Representatives of the Association of Traders of Fishery Products - Tomis, did not attend meetings of BISAC in 2019 and 2020, there is no response to the emails sent to them. They should be expelled of the forthcoming General Assembly.

The NGO Mare Nostrum will donate EUR 1,000 to the BISAC for organizing and holding the forthcoming Round Table, planned for November - before the General Assembly (GA).

Under **item 7** of the agenda: comments from the members of the BISAC and debates on what sanctions should be imposed on associations that do not pay their membership fee, or pay it in part.

Ms. Mihaela Mirea suggested that the non-paying members should not be paid the daily allowance, but that BISAC should take over the hotel accommodation and travel expenses, so as to provide an opportunity for their willing representatives to come to the meetings. Another proposed option is a proportional distribution of costs according to the percentage to which the membership fee is paid - who has not paid anything - does not receive per diems, and who has paid ½ from the membership fee receives ½ from the amount for per diems.

Comments follow on how these sanctions would affect the work of the BISAC and whether members of the meetings would come if they knew they would not receive a daily allowance.

It was decided that the members of the Executive Committee should consider proposals for addition to the procedural rules of the BISAC and submit them to the General Assembly.

Under **item 8** of the agenda: Mr. Dragos Buhai commented that the aid granted by the Romanian state to deal with the Covid pandemic has gone only to the aquaculture sector, and for the fisheries sector no monetary compensation has been provided so far. There were no direct discussions with the associations, only through the ministry's website.

The meeting closes.

Head of the protocol Mrs. Elena Peneva

Chairman of BISAC: Dr. Yordan Gospodinov