Establishing the AAC (Aquaculture Advisory Council)

Tapping into blue growth - the way forward for European Aquaculture

24 May 2016 Brussels

Aquaculture definitions & variability !

Aquatic! In property !

Open or closed systems

Extensive/intensive

Finfish/shellfish/algae/
crustaceans/plants

Food - Ornamental - Biofuels ?

Inland/at sea
Public concessions/property

Full or partial bio-cycle

28 Member States

Mono/plural activities

Short history of the development of a dialogue between COM and fishing industry, NGOs and aquaculture sector

1970: Common Fishery Policy is born: first « Lobbies » in action

1971-99: First formal dialogue made with COM: 1st FAC (Fishery Advisory Committee)

1999-2013: ACFA: Enlargement to include profession, NGOs, consumers

2004-2013: Régionalisation of CFP: Birth of RACs

2013: New CFP reform: ACs +MAC+AAC…instead of ACFA

Overview of oyster production - la Tremblade

Establishing the AAC

- **Legal background**
  - Article 43 R 1380/2013 on CFP and Annex III
  - Article 3 R 242/2015 delegated rules
- **Identified founding members first GA**
  - 40 sector organisations (60% seats)
  - 20 other interests (40% seats)

Bridges with expertise and markets

- VETs and scientific research (EAS and EATiP)
- To liaise with Market Advisory Council (MAC)

How to build a structure that represents all aquaculture activities and interests, transparently and effectively, and that delivers the results anticipated ?

- AAC is open to **ALL** aquaculture activities and groups of interests in all MS. Assembly decides on annual programmes and budgets

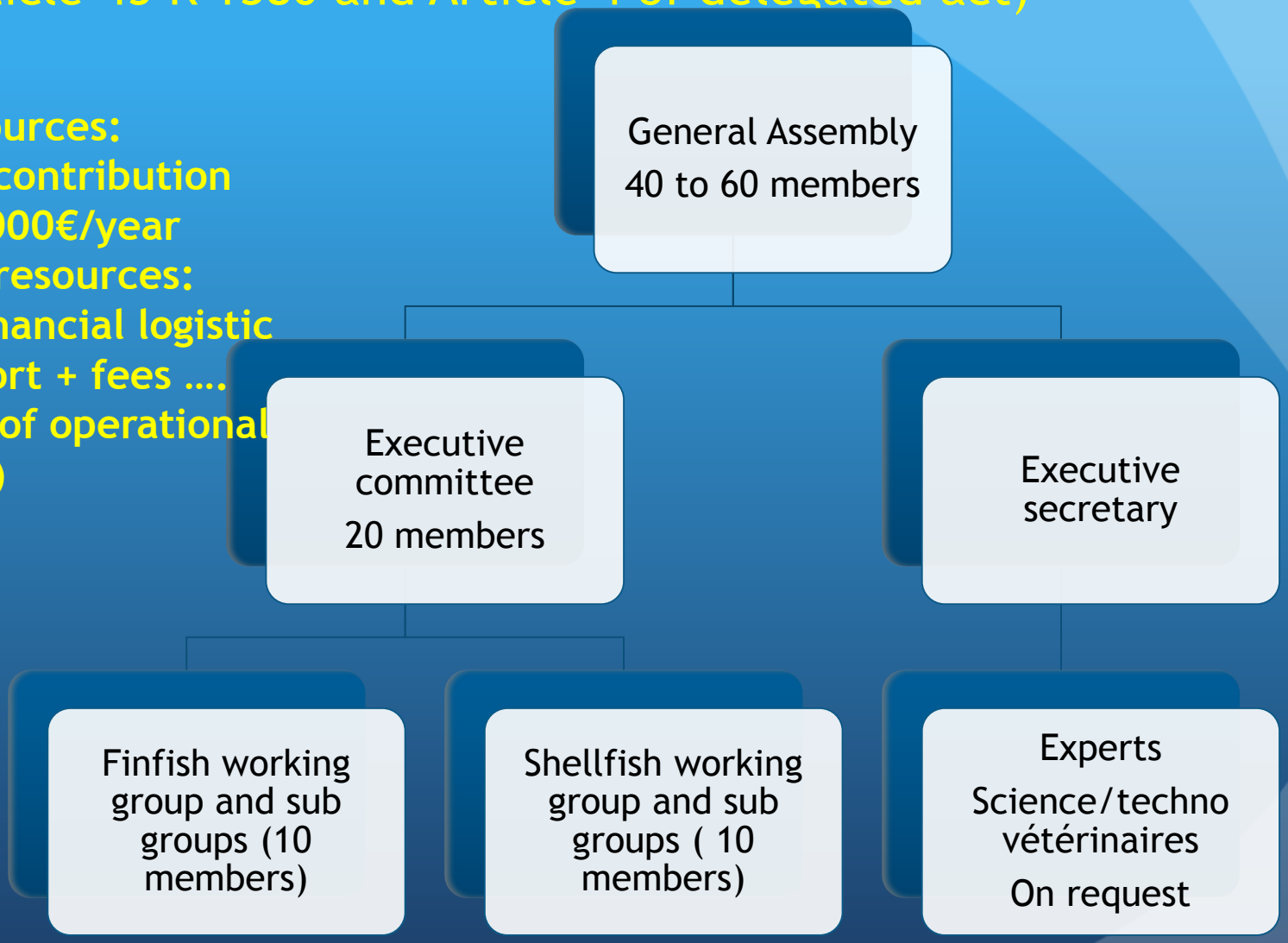
- An EX COM of 20 permanent members assumes the responsibility of AAC operations and decision-making process, during a mandate fixed by the GA

- Working groups, set up by the EX COM, which have the expertise and knowledge to initiate the decision-making process

AAC Structure

(Article 45 R 1380 and Article 4 of delegated act)

Ressources:
COM contribution 300,000€/year
Own resources:
MS financial logistic support + fees …. (10% of operational costs)



EU Aquaculture (Article 34 R 1380/201)

- To increase EU aquaculture competitiveness (EU support to development and innovation)
- Reducing administrative burden and associated costs (administrative simplification, one-stop shop, internal market unification: e.g. medicines etc…)
- Boosting economic activity, creating employment (EU support to investments)
- Contributing to coastal and inland waters activities diversification
- Integrating aqua in inland and coastal waters policies and maritime activities (spatial planning, regional and local water policies ec…) (PNSM 30/06/2014)
- Fixing and implementing socio-economic and environmental indicators aiming at a balanced EU aqua development
- Contributing to MAC objectives (Art.35 R 1380)

AAC tasks (enshrined in Article 44 R 1380/2013!)

- Recommendations on management of EU aqua
- Information/advice to COM and MS on management and socio-economic issues and problems
- Contributing to collect and analyse scientific data
- Ensure that our recommendations are taken into consideration by COM/MS

AAC challenges, constraints and actions

- First - to build reasonable mutual confidence and trust between its members, between sectors and other interest groups in the AAC and on the ground (« Social licence »)
- Second - to get sufficient competence and expertise to advice COM and MS and be recognised as a trusted body by policy makers
- Third - to develop, on its own initiative, European networks on exchange of knowledge and technology, to set up a database on social/economic results and to share information on production systems and market outlets
- In general, to contribute to overcoming the main constraints to aqua development in the EU: Access to sites, administrative burden, production costs, feed availability, global competitiveness

AAC setting: « state of play » and calendar

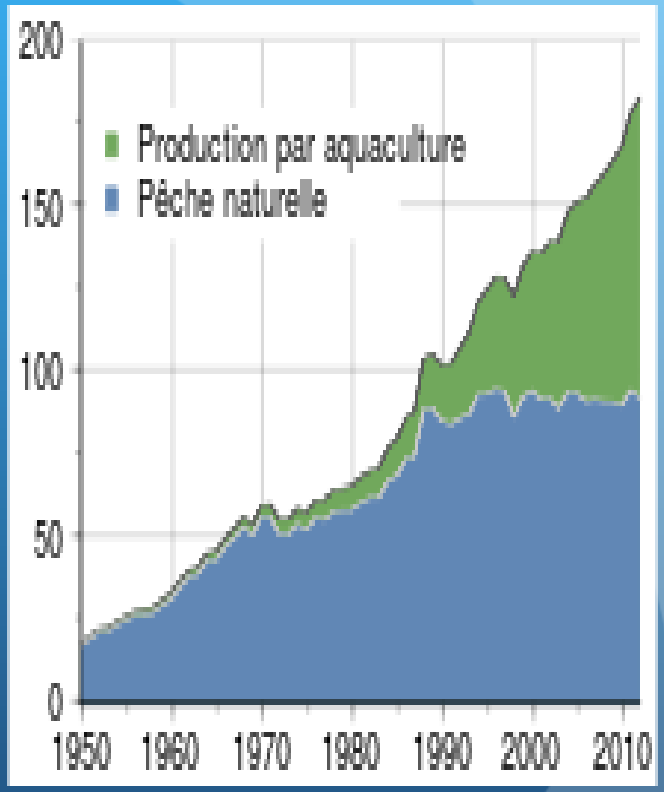
- COM has released its Communication acting the existence of AAC as from the 15 February 2016.
- The interim EX COM in the following days undertook to complete the file to register its existence in Belgium. Seat of its secretariat provisionaly fixed in Brussels.
- The provisional EX COM to hold its next meeting to organise the first GA which may meet in Paris, at the invitation of AEPM, in June 2016.

Conclusion

- To set a new advisory body besides COM/MS is not a success story in itself. A lot of challenges ahead - perfectly identified in successive COM Communications on the subject over many years.

- Aquaculture is seen to be, in a large part, the solution to feed the world in the future, providing a healthy food - good use of primary energy and resources, and, globally, a limited impact on the natural environment.

- For the EU Aquaculture to perform as well as elsewhere, the AAC is an essential tool for communication, analysis and policy advice - between the policy-makers on one hand, and the industry and the guardians of the environment and consumers on the other hand.



Thank you for your attention
Jean-Claude CUEFF Interim AAC EX COM chair