



Vigo, 5 April 2017

**MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
VIGO – 5 APRIL 2017**

0. ATTENDANCE

The Chair, Mr Reinhard Priebe, opened the meeting at 09h00 by welcoming the Administrative Board (AB) members and alternates present at the meeting. He announced that since the last meeting EFCA had received written confirmation about the appointment of the following new members and alternates:

- **Belgium:**
Alternate: Mr Greert Devogel
- **Bulgaria:**
Alternate: Mr Galin Nikolov
- **France:**
Alternate: Ms Pauline Potier
- **Greece:**
Representative: Ms Theoni Papadopoulou
Alternate: Mr Ioannis Oikonomakos
- **Italy:**
Alternate: Mr Lorenzo Giovanni Magnolo
- **Republic of Lithuania:**
Representative: Ms Ieva Zudienė
- **Spain:**
Alternate: Ms Teresa Molina Schmid
- **European Commission:**
Representatives: Mr Stefaan Depypere, Ms H el ene Clark and Ms Veronika Veits
Alternates: Ms Val erie Lain e, Mr Christos Economou, Mr Roberto Cesari, Mr Jacques Verborgh and Ms Francesca Arena
- **Advisory Board:**
Representative: Ms Purificaci n del C. Fern andez  lvarez (NWWAC)
Alternate: Mr Aurelio Bilbao Barandica (SWWAC)

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The Commission delegation encompassed one expert Ms Sarah Vitiello-Ferrara without any voting rights.

The Chair reminded the attendees that only the AB members had the right to vote but not the observers and experts, and that the meeting would be recorded.

The Chair asked if any of the participating AB members had any direct or indirect interests in relation to any matter on the agenda of the meeting, since AB members were required to declare those interests. There were no direct or indirect interests raised by the AB members.

The Chair reminded that the AB members needed to fill in the conflict of interest forms provided by EFCA, which shall be submitted annually. He also reminded the AB members of their obligation to submit résumés of their CVs which would be published on the EFCA website and should be updated whenever necessary. He pointed out that to date not all AB members had met that obligation which was established in March 2016 (AB Decision No 16-I-10 amending AB Decision No 14-II-8(1) of 17 October 2014 adopting the policy on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest of the European Fisheries Control Agency). He reminded the AB members that the European Parliament was closely monitoring the application of the EFCA conflict of interest policy as part of the discharge procedure.

Present	Proxies were given from Greece to Cyprus (for all agenda items), from Denmark to the Netherlands (for all agenda items), from Malta to Italy (for the election of the Deputy Chair) and from EC, Mr Fabrizio Donatella to Ms Veronika Veits (for all Agenda items). The presence list is attached in Annex I.
Quorum	The Chair concluded that the 2/3 quorum of 34 votes was obtained, whilst 5 votes were missing (Luxembourg, Romania and 3 EC).

1. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The Chair mentioned the following new documents distributed by the Executive Director (ED) before the meeting:

- Under item 2:
 - Draft conclusions of the Advisory Board;
 - Cooperation in the framework of the GFCM.
- Under item 4:
 - Updates Annual Report (AR) 2016;
- Under item 9:
 - Letter from the Spanish Administration dated 15 March 2017.

Following, the Chair presented the agenda and asked the AB members if they had any comment or new item to be added.

There were no additional comments on the agenda and thus it was adopted without changes (Annex II).

Since no further interventions were made, the Chair moved to point 2 of the agenda.

2. INFORMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The AB members were informed about the main issues that had taken place and were ongoing since the last ordinary AB meeting on 11 October 2016. *Inter alia*, the ED informed about the following:

1. Advisory Board:

The Advisory Board met on 3 March 2017 in Brussels. It was an opportunity to have an exchange of the situation and presenting the outcomes of the AR 2016 and the SPD 2017. During the meeting there was a request from the Advisory Board to change the organisation of the attendance to the AB meetings. They mentioned that one year term was too short and that limiting the appointment to just one representative was limiting their contribution to the AB. The founding regulation of EFCA reads that one representative of the Advisory Board will be present at the AB meetings. The AB could reflect on the possibility to extend the invitation to participate in the AB meetings to the Advisory Board alternate.

2. Cooperation in the framework of the GFCM

The ED pointed out the great effort that has been made for the implementation of the new GFCM recommendation for the Strait of Sicily, implementing an action plan for monitoring two species: hake and deep-water rose shrimp. The idea of this cooperation has been to involve southern Mediterranean countries, for the time being mostly Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Also, it has been attempted to involve Egypt and Libya. Meetings have been held with Morocco and Tunisia on 14-15 December, and on 16-17 March with the same countries, plus Algeria. Egypt and Libya did not attend. It has been planned to start implementing a pilot project based on guidelines, which would be very similar to a JDP, including training of inspectors. On 2-3 May there will be a meeting of the working group of GFCM on the monitoring, control and surveillance measures in Athens, where EFCA draft pilot projects will be presented again. There will be training exercises, one for trainers and another one for FMC operators in May, and additional ones for inspectors is foreseen by August-September. The operational part of the pilot project will start in June with exchange of sea inspectors, joint inspections and coordination of operations by EFCA, inviting some inspectors from those countries. There will be a state-of-play made to the GFCM committee of compliance in June, and the reporting of the outcome of this pilot project will be done in October during the GFCM annual session.

3. Cooperation in the framework of BALTFISH

EFCA co-organised a joint meeting of Baltfish and the Baltic Sea Advisory Council on 9 March in Hamburg; during that meeting EFCA presented some highlights of the current activities of the EFCA with Member States in the Baltic Sea;

4. WW demersal fisheries and Mediterranean Sea

The JDPs in the North Sea and Western Waters needed to be adapted since the scope of the relevant SCIPs has changed. Formerly some areas of Western Waters were embedded in the North Sea SCIP/JDP. This is no longer the case. In the Mediterranean, in line with the Decision of ICCAT applying a recovery plan to Mediterranean swordfish, EFCA has been working hard with MS to encompass the control for new swordfish measures in the JDP. Thus, EFCA is in the process of adoption of the amendments of those JDPs.

5. Marsurv pilot project

In 2016 there were two pilot projects tabled in EFCA's budget, one for preparing the implementation of the European Union Coast Guard initiative, and another for implementing a "worldwide Marsurv" in support of the implementation of the IUU Regulation. Within the worldwide Marsurv pilot project, EFCA, as manager of the business case, is working with EMSA as a service provider. EFCA has created a user group committee composed of Member States and European

Commission, to assist in the implementation of the project. The first meeting was organised in March 2017. The graphical interface of Marsurv needs to be improved and additional functionalities, such as connection with an electronic catch certificate for fighting IUU, need to be developed.

6. Budget Implementation

PESCAO Project: the project is close to final adoption. It will have a total budget of 15 500 000 EUR. DG DEVCO is in charge in close cooperation with DG MARE. This project, with a duration of 5 years, concerns the West Coast of Africa. EFCA will be part of the project and will be responsible of managing one grant and to provide part of the services, one of them might be the charter of an airplane for monitoring and surveillance in the area. EFCA will receive a grant of 2 585 000 EUR to implement this project. The final adoption by the Commission is foreseen in the course of April 2017. After the adoption, an amendment to the SPD will be needed. The project is planned to be implemented from 2018. The ED thanked the Commission for this new cooperation avenue in the international dimension of the CFP.

7. EFCA additional resources

State of play additional resources: recruitment of the new staff in the establishment plan is in progress. So far EFCA has recruited 6 new staff, 5 TAD and 1 TAST. The selection procedures for the recruitment of the 4 remaining positions are ongoing.

8. EFCA's Annual Communication Strategy and participation in meetings

Part of EFCA's activities is directed to the general public bringing the EU closer to the citizens. EFCA uses its website which has a target of 4000 average visits per month and maintains social media presence through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. EFCA participates to some exhibition events such as the Seafood and is part of the interinstitutional communication for the European Coast Guard initiative.

The list of meetings in which EFCA has participated was circulated to the AB under the current agenda item. During the first quarter of 2016, the most important presentation to the institutions was the yearly attendance to the EP Committee for presenting the work programme of the Agency and in relation to the EFCA discharge.

EFCA also communicates:

- with other agencies through the network of the European agencies;
- with non-governmental actors (Advisory Councils, Advisory Board, RFMOs and universities);
- with local public, participating to local events and inviting authorities to certain events such as the Europe Day;
- with the staff so that everybody understands the objectives, culture and achievements of the EFCA.

9. Procurement

Procurement ongoing: office stationery and material, charter for a Fisheries Patrol Vessel (FPV). As regards the FPV, the first open call last year was infructuous. EFCA is waiting for the conclusion of the evaluation committee on the second call. The ED pointed out that the FPV tender is a very complicated process due to some incompatibilities between the EU Financial Regulation and the rules applying to the chartering of ships (BIMCO contracts and clauses).

10. European Court of Auditors, Internal Audit and Internal Control



EFCA received a statement of assurance certifying an unqualified opinion for 2015 Annual Accounts. In relation with 2016 Annual Accounts, ECA conducted one on-site visit and a desk review. Furthermore, like in previous years, EFCA is being audited for 2016 Annual Accounts by an external audit firm. The final report of the Court is expected in 2017.

Internal Audit Service: in 2016 the IAS carried out a risk assessment covering EFCA's major processes. As a result of IAS work the "IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2017-2019" was established.

11. Amendment to ED declaration of interest (DoI)

The Executive Director of EFCA has updated his annual declaration of interest, available on EFCA's web site, in order to reflect his promotion to "administrateur général de 2^{ème} classe des affaires maritimes (NATO NAVY– OF-6 # Rear Admiral (lower half))" on 1 March 2017.

12. Decisions and agreements of the Executive Director since the Administrative Board on 11 October 2016

The information has been provided to the AB under Annex III of Item 2 cover note.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

The representative of DE questioned the possible consequences of the PESCAO project in terms of implementation of the work by the current staff. The representative of NL also participated in this question, adding his concern about the budget for this project that has been allocated in West Africa by DG DEVCO. Furthermore, the representative of NL queried whether the full compliance of the Internal Control Standards addressed in Annex IV of the Cover note, item 2, circulated to the AB, has been achieved or will be reached during 2017.

Following these questions, the Advisory Board Representative intervened in relation to the rotation of the Advisory Board representative to the AB and the incorporation of new ACs. She requested the AB's view about the attendance of more than one AC at the AB meetings and the possibility of reimbursement from EFCA.

With reference to the questions related to the PESCAO project, the ED replied that EFCA has a decision from DG BUDG establishing a derogation for accessing to Commission grants. Regarding the possibility of increasing staff, the ED specified that his intention was not to increase the number of civil servants. However such an ambitious project could not be delivered properly with the current staff. He mentioned the possible temporary recruitment of a few contract agents for the duration of the project and underlined that this might entail some changes in the organisation of the Agency.

Regarding the compliance with ICS, the ED provided additional information (also available at the annex IV of the cover note of the item 2) and clarified that these were reported in the AR 2016.

Concerning the question of the Advisory Board Representative, the Chair opened the floor. The ED mentioned the possibility of combining the invitation of an expert as an alternate, but clarified that article 31 of the founding regulation of EFCA refers to the appointment of just one representative of the Advisory Board in the AB.

The representative of DE mentioned that if the legislator comes forward with the idea of allowing more representatives from the Advisory Councils, they will be open to do so, otherwise he highlighted that the AB should stick to the legal frame. He supported the increase of the term for more than one year.



The representative of NL pointed out that by extending the periods of the Advisory Board representative, experience could be built up for over a year.

The EC (VV) stated that the AB should stick to the rules of the founding regulation of EFCA, which makes clear that there should be just one representative of the Advisory Council, but do not specify the duration of one year, what allows some flexibility in that regard.

Concerning the GFCM Cooperation, the EC (VV) mentioned that progress on the Pilot Project and Joint Inspection Plan development were given most importance, seeing it as a first implementation step to the Ministerial Declaration for the Mediterranean adopted the previous week in Malta, and congratulated EFCA for its progress and development of the Pilot Project.

The EC (VV) was also pleased to see that Baltfish has been very active in the implementation of the Landing Obligation, progressing very quickly towards the full implementation of the LO. The EC called for the ACs to ensure that the LO is fully implemented. The work of EFCA was described as crucial for that purpose and the EC mentioned that it was pleased to see that EFCA is working on the development of a methodology for compliance assessment and with the stakeholders to identify best practices.

Within the fight against IUU fishing, the EC (VV) mentioned the Marsurv project and MS involved in that project were encouraged to actively contribute and participate in the users group.

With reference to the PESCAO project the EC (VV) pointed out that it was a great achievement, especially considering the funding difficulties.

On the ICS the EC (VV) highlighted the positive evaluation EFCA has received from the different audits.

The Advisory Board representative was asked if anything should be added to the previous issue on the Advisory Board representation and she replied that they expected a formal reply from the AB.

The Chair closed the point commenting that there might be a certain problem if there is not a minimum of continuity of the representation of the Advisory Board in the AB. He also clarified that the regulation is clear about the representation of the Advisory Board in the AB with only one representative, and that the regulation does not specify the duration of the representative's term. He pointed out the importance of the active participation of the Advisory Board representatives in the AB's discussions and mentioned that it would be good if one representative attended more than once.

The Chair pointed out that in case expertise from a specific region were needed for a specific agenda item it would be possible to invite members of the Advisory Board as experts in addition to their representative.

The Administrative Board took note	of the information provided in writing as well as orally, at the meeting.
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3. TERM OF OFFICE OF THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

- a) New term of office of the Chair

The Chair handed over the item to the Deputy Chair and left the meeting room.

The EC proposed the renewal of the term of the current Chair, Mr Reinhard Priebe.



The AB voted by secret ballot on the proposal to appoint the current Chair for another term from 16 October 2017 until 15 October 2020, or until the end of his membership, if he ceases to be member of the AB earlier.

Results of the secret ballot:

- 25 votes in favour;
- 1 vote invalid.

Mr Reinhard Priebe was appointed as Chair for a second term.

Proposed action	Election of the Chair
Legal Basis	Regulation (EC) No 768/2005, Article 25(1) and Article 27(1) with its detailed rules of application laid down in Article 3 of the Rules of procedure of the Administrative Board
Decision	Adopted by majority of the members with the right to vote

b) New term of office of the Deputy Chair

The Deputy Chair handed over the item to the Chair and left the meeting room. The Chair informed that for this specific item the Deputy Chair gave proxy to Italy.

The Chair informed that the current Deputy Chair, Ms Andreina Fenech Farrugia, was candidate for a second term and asked if there were any other candidates for the Deputy Chair position.

There were no other candidates and the AB voted by secret ballot on the proposal to appoint the current Deputy Chair for another term from 16 October 2017 until 15 October 2020, or until the end of her membership, if she ceases to be member of the AB earlier.

Results of the secret ballot:

- 27 votes in favour;
- 1 vote invalid.

Ms Andreina Fenech Farrugia was appointed as Deputy Chair for a second term.

Proposed action	Election of the Deputy Chair
Legal Basis	Regulation (EC) No 768/2005, Article 25(1) and Article 27(1) with its detailed rules of application laid down in Article 3 of the Rules of procedure of the Administrative Board
Decision	Adopted by majority of the members with the right to vote

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The AB received a hard copy of the pages with the main changes proposed to amend the AR 2016, considering the comments received from the EC and the MS. The ED displayed on the screen the proposal.

The representative of SE asked to correct the abbreviation of his country in one of the pictures, thus to use the international abbreviation SE.

The Chair asked the AB for comments and pointed out that the AR was a communication tool to the outside world.

The EC (VV) agreed with the changes proposed to the AR 2016.

The representative of NL noted that the AR had improved as compared to last year and asked:

- what the reason was for the cost decrease in the NS and BS JDPs and
- why the tables within the risk bullet point used the term misrecording instead of misreporting.

The ED clarified that the cost figures provided in the AR 2016 referred to 2015 and not to 2016, the later are not yet available. With reference to the term misrecording, the ED clarified that when a vessel falls only under paper log book, then the vessel can only record and not report. If the vessel has ERS, then it can be misrecording and misreporting. So, in the AR 2016 it should be misrecording.

There were no further comments.

Proposed action	Adoption of the Annual Report 2016 (including the assessment of the AB).
Legal Basis	Article 23(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 768/2005
Decision	Adopted by consensus.

5. ACTION PLAN OF EFCA ON THE EUCG FOR 2017

The HoU 2 started explaining that after the amendment of the founding regulation of EFCA and EMSA and the new Regulation for Frontex in September 2016, the Agency had been working with the other two agencies in the implementation of the European Coast Guard initiative. He stated that within the Single Programming Document (SPD) 2017, a draft Action Plan for 2017 was included. During 2017 EFCA has continued cooperating with the other agencies through multipurpose operations, training activities, etc.

The HoU 2 noted that the intention of this agenda item was to inform about the state of play of EFCA's cooperation with EMSA and Frontex in the implementation of the European Coast Guard initiative, following the Action Plan for 2017:

Three points were highlighted:

1. The cooperation between the agencies is established through a tripartite working arrangement (TWA). The draft TWA was approved by the Administrative/Management Boards of the three agencies and signed by the EDs on 17 March. In the final document, the request of the AB of EFCA to agree on the areas of cooperation for the coming year, by 1 September of each year, was retained. This agreement will be presented to the three Agencies Governing Bodies to be added to the SPD. The first meeting of the TWA Steering Group, composed of the three agencies, is foreseen in June 2017. A strategic document will be discussed to be included in the SPD of the three agencies. In the case of EFCA, it will be included in the last version of the SPD to be discussed and submitted for adoption in the AB meeting to be held in October.
2. EFCA is cooperating in the final steps of the implementation of the Coast Guard Pilot Project (EUCGPP). EFCA continues coordinating the development of an Outline of Guidelines on inter-agency cooperation. The cooperation continues regarding operational activities with Frontex involving the Member States through the Regional Steering Groups (RSG). The CGPP will serve to identify the areas in which cooperation is feasible in the next stage, e.g. joint courses.

The closure event of the CGPP is foreseen on 2 June 2017 in Lisbon, for which the AB members had received an invitation. Expected participation from the Commissioners, Commission Services, EP, ECGFF and other agencies concerned was mentioned. The

idea is to present the results of the CGPP and ideas, expectations and different recommendations to guide future cooperation.

3. Finally, cooperation has been established with the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF). The three agencies have organised three events in which the activities in each of the areas are presented to the Coast Guard community.

Regarding the multipurpose operations, the ED stated that the cooperation was continuing in the Mediterranean. EFCA has been participating in planning meetings of Frontex and EFCA has invited Frontex's colleagues to attend its RSGs. The practice to exchange personnel between the agencies to have regular briefings has been maintained. EFCA is organising an implementation group in the Mediterranean at the end of April to discuss about possible cooperation, standard operating procedures, etc.

As new areas of cooperation, it was mentioned that in the Black Sea a first meeting with Frontex and EFCA stakeholders has been planned with the MS authorities in May. Frontex will also be starting the operation HERA that will cover the Atlantic area of Canary Islands and EFCA will be able to establish some cooperation there. Also, the organisation of an implementation group is planned to start in the Baltic Sea.

Future joint procurement for aircrafts together with Frontex is being analysed and a possible discussion with EMSA on the possibilities for RPAS services is being considered.

The HoU 1 presented the Multipurpose Air Surveillance Operation (MASO). Surveillance airplane services were contracted by Frontex, giving EFCA the opportunity to do air surveillance flights in the Central Mediterranean area. It has been ongoing since 27 March and will end on 11 April. The distribution of the activities has been planned for 135 flight hours in total, where 125 hours have been planned for fisheries surveillance and 10 hours for border crime and Search and Rescue (SAR) activities.

The HoU 1 explained the planned flight route, the sensor on board equipment used for streaming of images and for receiving any kind of information, EFCA line up and the information flow.

For this operation, a Liaison Officer has been deployed by EFCA in the Frontex Situation Centre (FSC), where he teamed up with the Frontex's Liaison Officers in the other areas. EFCA MOC staff has also been in the Frontex Situation Centre (FSC) to make sure that all communication channels and access to EFCA's operational systems were set-up as required. In order to cover two flights per day, two coordinators have been at all times deployed in Malta. Italy is also participating with two inspectors to join the flights.

Regarding the information flow, EFCA had daily briefings based on the information gathered in the VMS, Marsurv and ERS systems. An analysis was made together with the information obtained during the previous flights in order to plan the exact flight mission for the day. This was done from Warsaw by the EFCA Liaison Officer in collaboration with the coordinators at EFCA, the Liaison Officer in Malta, as well as with the Frontex ICC, and thereafter communicated to the team in Malta. There was live streaming of images from the plane to Frontex and then routed to EFCA, so the flights could be followed in real time. Sighting forms were completed and, together with the relevant aggregated information, uploaded in Fishnet Mediterranean TJDG site, so that MS had access to it.

The HoU 1 detailed the obtained result so far: 95 sightings, where 65 were EU fishing vessels and 30 third country vessels. No suspicious infringements were found (and no match found with IUU lists).

The Chair gave the floor to the participants.

The ED thanked the Maltese authorities for acceding to EFCA and Frontex's request to operate the aircraft from Maltese territory.

The representative of DE questioned if the airplane operated by EFCA was focussing on fishing vessels in the first place and if anything suspicious was found that could be of use for Frontex or EMSA if it would be communicated to those agencies.

The HoU 1 responded that 125 out of 135 flight hours had been planned for fisheries surveillance. However, if any other suspicious behaviour was spotted, it would be reported back to the Situation Centre in Warsaw for appropriate actions as decided by the relevant national services for emergency responses.

The ED intervened to clarify that in the case of SAR the authority to hand it over would be the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in charge.

The representative of DE stated that the referred campaign was focussed on BFT and asked whether this model could be exported to other fisheries.

The representative of IE enquired about the technical aspects of the equipment. For example, the communication, getting near to real-time images, visual imagery captured, and its resolution to check if that has legal value in court cases. He pointed out that other aspects like the range of the aircraft and practical limitations that are being discovered can be added to the investment being made and could be useful for MS for similar surveillance platforms.

The HoU 1 confirmed that MASO is not limited to BFT and could be applied to any fisheries surveillance. Moreover, in most EU waters fisheries air surveillance is part of the toolbox. The range of the aircraft was specified in the contract that Frontex signed with the provider. The aircraft range is limited to 5 hours flight time. She mentioned that at the end of the project there will be a report with an extensive lessons learned part that will be evaluated and shared.

The representative of AT asked if EFCA had details about potential illegal fishing detected during the flights.

The HoU 2 mentioned that last year there were some suspicious activities detected in a multipurpose operation led by Frontex, regarding possible illegal activities on BFT that were reported to EFCA. He detailed the two ways of cooperation between EFCA and Frontex:

- a) To have information exchange through the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): when an internal activity is organised by Frontex or EFCA and there are findings relating to the other agency.
- b) The second way of cooperation is the training of the crews to be able to detect any illegal activity to report to EFCA. There is an agreed SOP between Frontex and EFCA on how to deal when a border operation is being carried out. In the case of a possible illegal activity of fisheries identified and detected, the information would be disseminated and action would be taken.

The representative of ES highlighted the importance of having a maritime picture, now improved with the cooperation between Frontex, EMSA and EFCA and asked about the interaction between the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) and the TWA.

The HoU 2 clarified that CISE initiative has been organised and managed by the EC. In CISE there are a lot of communities represented, in some cases communities outside EMSA/Frontex/EFCA.

The HoU 1 mentioned that during 2016 EFCA attended one technical advisory group meeting where EFCA is collaborating quite extensively with its specific expertise. She underlined that CISE is a very interesting project and EFCA will continue to collaborate.

The Chair asked to provide background information about what CISE was and how this related to the new TWA.

The ED highlighted that:

- CISE initiative started before the idea of creating a EUCG initiative. So far, EFCA's contribution to CISE has been as an observer and representing the "fisheries control interest of the community". Now, with the new tasks of the EUCG initiative, there will be a bigger sharing of data.
- As mentioned in the TWA, the issue of data will be one of the major challenges. All the information has to be analysed, conveyed and used to have a common comprehensive situation picture shared with MS, to which CISE can contribute.

The representative of ES stressed that CISE intends to avoid overlapping. She questioned how to engage in this kind of exchange, not only the MS but also the agencies, with the new TWA.

The EC (VV) stated that CISE is one of the three cross-cutting tools the EC is looking at in the context of the integrated maritime policy. What the EC has been doing is to map those authorities in the MS who undertook monitoring activity and collected data and analyse the type of data that is being collected. The overall objective would be to create synergies and greater efficiency in the monitoring activities by making the agencies which do that monitoring activities work together, exchanging data and avoiding duplication of data collection. The example of EUCG has been one which fitted very much into the objectives of the CISE project. However, the EC remarked that it was a little bit premature to say how the ongoing activities in CISE and in the EUCG initiative will come together. The EC added that the analysis is not yet finished, but the EC will be able to come back to it at a later stage.

The representative of CY mentioned that there was a need to have more IT cooperation and to try to minimise the duplication of work. CISE exists at MS level and also at EU level. He pointed out that there should be a way to minimise duplication and decrease costs in trying to have this cooperation between different agencies.

The EC (VV) emphasised that efficiency was becoming their new mantra. The EC depends on a corporate strategy to increase the efficiency of data collection activities; there is an EC communication on that aspect that has been issued at the beginning of the year. The EC is under instructions to look into efficiency gains for data collection, also in the context of the common fisheries policy, to make sure that only those data that are needed are being collected and have to be submitted, and to make sure that there is no duplication of data collection activities. It will take some time, but it will also be a guide for the development of new legislation in order to avoid redundancies in data collection or data to be collected and at the end not being used.

The representative of IE Ireland drew the attention of the AB members to the issue of data protection, particularly important when dealing with remote sensing system, and to the fact that sometimes there will be a need to collect the same data more than once.

The Administrative Board took note	of the information provided in writing as well as orally, at the meeting.
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6. DRAFT SINGLE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT: MULTIANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018-2022 AND ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 2018

An introduction to the draft SPD Multiannual work programme 2018-2022 and Annual work programme 2018, here in after called draft SPD 2018, which was notified to the EC in January 2017, was presented by the ED for reflection and feedback from the AB representatives. He made reference to the inclusion of the first set of contributions sent by the EC with regard to KPI's in the AR 2016, already included in the draft SPD 2018 and to be considered by DG MARE with BUDG, HR and DEVCO.

The ED pointed out that a review of the financial perspectives is to be expected to take into account the communication of the EC, as well as factors affecting the next four years period, namely the activation of the article 50 TEU by UK, the consequences of the Malta Declaration, and specific actions with financial implications (PESCAO project).

The Chair reminded that at this stage no final decision would be taken and invited the AB members to participate.

The representative of NL asked whether there was a possibility to differentiate the Coast Guard activities in the KPI indicators, quoting as an example the objectives of JDP by region. He also referred to the need to include KPIs and information on compliance/non-compliance and asked for further clarification regarding the origin of the grants awarded for IUU missions and its number.

The ED explained that a joint planning with specific KPI's is foreseen in the TWA and can be conveyed in the draft SPD 2018 to report on the main guidelines for tracking the CG activity. He reminded, though, that the implementation of the budget requires consistency with mission topics, related principally to fisheries control. The draft action plan related to some actions of the TWA was displayed by the HoU 2.

With reference to the grants the ED mentioned that the Agency had a derogation to receive grants, without which projects, like PESCAO, would not be possible. On the number of missions, the ED referred to the AB Decision in October 2016 not to keep a "cap" to the IUU missions and just to include an average annual target.

The HoU's 1 and 2 complemented the explanations of the ED, noting the need to adapt figures where possible in the next strategy, and that currently most multipurpose actions are included and managed within the JDPs.

The ED asked the representative of NL if the replies were satisfactory. The representative of NL thanked EFCA for the clarifications and monitoring efforts, expressing his confidence in a more detailed indication of the resources for this cooperation and admitting that it may take time as the process has just started growing.

The ED announced that, as soon as an action plan of the three agencies is defined, an intermediate version of the draft SPD 2018 with specific KPIs will be circulated to the AB before the next meeting for discussion.

The EC (VV) representative took the floor to inform that a written contribution will be issued after internal consultation with the different EC services. She referred to the importance to differentiate between output, result and impact indicators in order to get to the results and to show to the outside world that money given to EFCA is fruitful.

The representative of DE asked whether some species and areas beyond the JDPs will be considered, and the ED informed that a possible contribution from EFCA to coordinate an action on demersal species was proposed to the Western Waters high level group. The ED agreed that EFCA could have more added value if most species would fall under the JDP framework.

The representative of DE also requested a clarification on the meaning of the terms "legal systems" and "inspectors". The ED explained that the Agency is intending to re-develop some guidelines aiming at ensuring that the Union Inspectors are aware of the requirements of the different European legal systems for evidencing, preserving and presenting the burden of the proof. The JDP process is factoring common performance indicators, and the way risks and targets are identified.

The Chair concluded that the draft SPD 2018 will be finalised, taking on board the comments and upcoming contribution of the EC, and will be adopted at the meeting in October 2017.

The Board took note	of the information provided in writing as well as orally, at the meeting.
Agreed	to receive, as soon as an action plan of the three agencies is defined, a revised version of the draft SPD 2018

7. FIVE YEAR INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF EFCA

The Chair opened the floor to the ED to present the state of play of the second Five-year independent external evaluation of EFCA.

The ED recalled that in line with the ToR issued by the AB a contract was signed for the elaboration of the study, including inception, interim and final report, for which a definitive draft was just finalised, and it was decided by the AB to form a Steering Group (SG) composed of the EC, the AB representative of IE, and EFCA.

The ED explained that the seminar for presenting the conclusions and recommendations, initially foreseen to take place in the margins of the AB in April, was postponed. He noted the need to proceed in order to resume the schedule and circulate the draft final report to the AB for feedback by 25 April. This was in order to get the final report by the end of May. He asked the AB members to consider the organisation of the seminar and associated AB meeting in June e.g. 20 and 21 June.

The representative of IE, acknowledged the facts referred by the ED. He stated that the necessary clarifications to the evaluators on the terms of reference, as well as the correction of some inaccuracies and the adaptation of the layout and extension were the main reason for the delay. He also referred to the uneven level of participation pointed out by the evaluators and encouraged contribution from all members to provide their insights.

The ED expressed gratitude to the SG and all the team responsible for their work.

The Chair stressed the need to set a date for the seminar with the evaluator which availability was proving difficult. The ED corroborated this, and mentioned that in case the presence of the evaluator could not be granted other possibilities could be explored e.g. video conference or the recording of footage.

The Chair pointed out the importance of the presence of the evaluator, and expressed concern about fixing dates that would imply public holidays for some participants.

The representative of the NL asked for clarification about the procedure.

The ED explained that in 2012 the draft final document was circulated to the AB for feedback. The AB members had comments that were considered in the final version of the report. A seminar was organised to present the report to the stakeholders and also to discuss the recommendations of the evaluator. The day after the seminar, during the AB meeting, the AB issued the relevant recommendations, some of the recommendations provided in the report were taken on board and some others were not.

The representative of IE highlighted that it was important to remember that the evaluation carried out is an independent evaluation and it will provide added value to discuss on the recommendations.

The representative of DE mentioned that considering that the report is independent, by giving opportunity to provide comments, the AB would become co-author. Thus, this would prevent the report to be independent.

The representative of the EC (VV) pointed out that the AB is commissioning an independent evaluation but it does not mean that the AB has no right to make comments on the draft report. To

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the contrary the AB has to make sure that the evaluation is of good quality, to check if it is in line with the terms of reference. Later the EC will submit the final report together with the recommendations to the Council, the EP and the evaluation shall be made public.

The Chair clarified that the AB would not be asked to substitute the external independent evaluation by their own evaluation. He pointed out that it was important that the AB members were getting the draft report in order to start reflecting on potential recommendations the AB will give in line with article 39 of the founding regulation of EFCA.

The representative of ES asked for clarification about when the recommendations would be issued. It was clarified that the recommendations will be issued by the AB after receiving the final report.

The ED committed to circulate the final draft report during the day or the day following the AB and asked the AB members to provide feedback by 25 April.

The Board took note	of the information provided in writing as well as orally, at the meeting.
Agreed	to receive the draft final report on the Five year external evaluation of the EFCA for feedback asap and to provide feedback by 25 April.

8. STAFF REGULATION IMPLEMENTING RULES

The HoU 3 presented the agenda item 8 for information. He mentioned that in line with article 110 of the Staff Regulations, agreement with the EC is needed before the adoption of implementing rules. The EU decentralised agencies do usually get a common agreement for particular rules with the EC, in this regard a standard working party has been set up representing the EU decentralised agencies and the EC.

The HoU 3 pointed out that it was very difficult to predict when these rules will actually come to the AB for decision. The expectation is to have the first set approved by July 2017, either during an AB meeting, if there is one before the summer, or by written procedure.

The most advanced at the moment is the anti-harassment policy. He mentioned that one aspect to be taken into account in the anti-harassment policy is the setting up of an inter-agency call for confidential counsellors. Smaller agencies are working with a network of confidential counsellors, as this function is very difficult to carry out just internally in a confidential way.

With reference to telework, learning & development, middle managers, function of adviser, the HoU 3 explained that last year the AB made the decision to opt out from the EC versions of these rules. Since then, the EC has been working with the standard working party on developing particular models for the agencies. There are many comments concerning the teleworking model and the middle managers models, so it is very difficult to predict when they will come. However, it is hoped to receive them by end of 2017.

The AB was also informed that a bit further in the pipeline, the EC has changed their own rules in particular areas, like the use of Contract Agents, which will be followed by a common model. In the area of whistleblowing it has also been decided that the agencies need a common model. The EC is also proposing a common model for the temporary occupation of management post.

There were no further comments and the item was closed.

The Administrative Board took note	of the information provided in writing as well as orally, at the meeting.
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9. EFCA SEAT AGREEMENT

The Chair gave the floor to the ED who introduced the item and explained that the original planned location of the Agency was a building belonging to the Spanish Navy, "Comandancia de la Marina". However, when the Agency moved to Vigo, the original location was not available and a provisional seat was provided by the Spanish authorities in the Edificio Odriazola, where EFCA has its current premises. The second to the sixth floors are rented by the Spanish authorities. The Agency is renting the seventh floor on its own accord and pays security and maintenance services of the building. This provisional seat has been rented for five years, and the contract will expire at the end of 2017. A letter from the Spanish authorities on the subject has been distributed to the AB members.

The representative of ES confirmed the information provided by the ED and mentioned that, in line with the letter circulated to the AB members, there was an agreement for the rent of the EFCA premises including the first floor of the building. The contract would be for three years plus a potential renewal of two more years (1+1). The representative of ES indicated that there was a minor administrative procedure to be completed but that the agreement could be considered settled.

The ED then enquired about the possibility of defining the current seat as definitive headquarters.

The representative of ES replied that it is still a provisional situation because the Agency is on a rented building.

The ED thanked the representative of ES for the enlargement of the rental contract including the first floor and asked about the maturity of the decision to evaluate potential investments in the building (e.g. refurbishing, wiring, air conditioning,...).

The representative of ES confirmed that for the period mentioned above the agreement has been fixed and just a minor administrative signature was missing and EFCA will be informed as soon as it is completed.

The Administrative Board took note	of the information provided in writing as well as orally, at the meeting.
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10. DISCUSSION ON WAYS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE WORKING PRACTICES

The Chair launched a reflection on how to improve the AB participation and to provide the Agency with input, feedback, suggestions where things could be improved, in order to help the Agency. The Chair emphasised that one of the Administrative Board's functions is to control the Agency on administrative and also more substantial issues. He encouraged a bit more dynamism on the discussions, not for the sake of having discussions but to better fulfil the mandate of the AB to assist the Agency to do its tasks.

The representative of DE echoed the Chair's impression and pointed out that the discussions were often only among four, five participants, and encouraged his colleagues to take part in the discussions.

The Chair pointed out that no one should hesitate to ask for the floor for linguistic reasons.

The ED reiterated that feedback was very welcome and asked the AB if they considered that the documents were very long or very technical and if the use of Fishnet was helpful.

The Chair mentioned that the AB members could also send their feedback or suggestions by e-mail.

The representative of CY acknowledged that the discussions were not so dynamic as in the past but that it should be considered that many issues are now well settled and part of the routine. He suggested incorporating some new elements in the agenda to stimulate more the discussion.

In order to encourage the discussion the Chair proposed EFCA to keep a little bit of time in the agenda for specific items.

The Chair and some AB representatives commented on the dimension and the acoustics of the meeting room.

The ED mentioned that if the AB so wished the next AB could be again organised at EFCA's premises. With reference to the possibility to make the AB meetings more dynamic the ED proposed to put on the agendas specific items for discussion to be prepared by the AB members.

The representative of IE pointed out that the distribution of the documents through Fishnet three weeks in advance was very good and asked to develop a tool in Fishnet to enable the AB to provide comments to the different agenda items.

The Chair took note of the suggestion and asked EFCA to reflect on it.

With reference to the need to enhance the debate, the representative of FI mentioned that it should be taken into account that on the one hand the work of the Agency was well known by him, as he had been working in the Agency and, on the other hand reading all the documents was an issue. Regarding the working procedures, he asked for the development of a video conferencing (VC) system or similar through Fishnet.

The ED thanked the AB for their comments and agreed that documents were probably too big. He pointed out that the AB combines different functions, as a monitoring and decision body. Therefore, the AB needs to be duly informed in order to ensure transparency and provide the AB with all the elements to perform its duties. The ED clarified that the framework of some documents, i.e. SPD and the AR, follow the guidelines approved by the EC, and there was not much margin of manoeuvre in structure. Moreover, the AR process has taken into consideration the IAS suggestions.

On the VC, the ED mentioned that VC was already used in the Technical Joint Deployment Groups through Fishnet.

The Chair pointed out that the cover notes produced by the Agency for every agenda item were mostly very useful and clear and could also help to guide the AB.

The representative of ES agreed that the cover notes were really good and thanked the Agency to send the documents three weeks in advance. She stated that Fishnet was working fine and suggested, if possible, to make available a list of participants with e-mails and telephone numbers to be able to exchange information between participants.

To close the item the Chair made a reference to the gender balance. He called to advance on gender balance, and pointed out to the gender balance figures in the Agency's staff (data available in the AR 2016) and the AB representation.

The Administrative Board took note	of the information provided orally, at the meeting.
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11. **AOB**

The Chair announced that the next AB meeting was scheduled for 18 October 2017.



The representative of NL asked whether it would be possible to have the date of the potential AB to be organised before the summer.

The Chair clarified that the AB would be informed as soon as possible on the dates.

The ED informed the AB on the event taking place the day after the AB (6 April 2017), to which the AB were invited, the "Workshop of European Coast Guard Function Forum".

Last but not least the ED thanked the EC representative Ms Pascale Colson, member of the AB for many years, for her very useful contributions and outstanding work, and wished all the best in her new position.

The Administrative Board took note	of the information provided orally, at the meeting. Next Administrative Board meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- June 2017 (TBD)- 18 October 2017
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Since no further interventions were made, the Chair thanked the AB members for their participation and contributions and closed the meeting at 15h43.



ANNEX I

List of participants to the meeting of the
Administrative Board of the EFCA
Vigo, 5 April 2017

	Members	Alternates
(BE) Belgium:	Mr Jean-François VERHEGGHEN	-
(BG) Bulgaria:	Mr Dimitar VALKOV	-
(CZ) Czech Rep.:	Mr Roman HEIMLICH	-
(DK) Denmark:	-	-
(DE) Germany:	Mr Hermann POTT	-
(EE) Estonia:	Mr Indrek ULLA	-
(IE) Ireland:	Mr Andrew KINNEEN	-
(EL) Greece:	-	-
(ES) Spain:	-	Ms Teresa MOLINA SCHMID
(FR) France:	-	Ms Pauline POTIER
(HR) Croatia:	-	Mr Mario SKORJANEC
(IT) Italy:	-	Mr Lorenzo G. MAGNOLO
(CY) Cyprus ¹ :	Mr Yiannos KYRIACOU	-
(LV) Latvia:	Mr Miks VEINBERGS	-
(LT) Lithuania:	Ms Ieva ZUNDIENE	Mr Tomas KAZLAUSKAS
(LU) Luxembourg:	-	-
(HU) Hungary:	-	Mr Janos GABOR
(MT) Malta:	Ms Andreina FENECH FARRUGIA	-
(NL) Netherlands ² :	Mr Leon R. M. LOMANS	Mr Gerrit A. LAM
(AT) Austria:	Ms Gabriela KÖNIG	-
(PL) Poland:	Mr Krzysztof CIESZKOWSKI	-
(PT) Portugal:	Mr José MACIEL	-
(RO) Romania:	-	-
(SL) Slovenia:	-	Mr Slavko SISKO
(SK) Slovakia:	Mr Jan CHLADOK	-
(FI) Finland:	Mr Jarmo VILHUNEN	-
(SE) Sweden:	Mr Ingemar BERGLUND	-
(UK) United Kingdom:	-	Mr Cephas A. RALPH
<u>European Commission:</u>		
	Mr Reinhard PRIEBE (Chair)	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	Ms Veronika VEITS ³	Ms Pascale COLSON
	-	-

Observers:

Ms Purificación FERNÁNDEZ (NWWAC)

Ms Sarah Rosaria VITIELLO-FERRARA (European Commission)

EFCA:

Mr Pascal SAVOURET (Executive Director- ED)

Ms Karin HERMANSSON (Head of Unit Operations - Unit 1)

Mr Pedro GALACHE (Head of Unit Programmes and Assistance - Unit 2)

¹ Proxy from Greece.

² Proxy from Denmark.

³ Proxy from F. Donatella (EC).

Mr Niall MCHALE (Head of Unit Resources and IT - Unit 3)
Ms Clara FERNÁNDEZ (Policy Officer - OED)
Mr Marcel DEDIC (Accounting Officer – OED)
Mr Paulo CASTRO (Internal Control Coordinator – OED)
Ms Marta RAMILA (Assistant Communication Officer- OED)
Ms Gregoria CUESTA (Assistant to the ED – OED)
Mr Patrick ALLEN (Desk Manager Maritime Operations Centre – Unit 1)
Mr Mario LOPES SANTOS (Deputy Head of Unit Programmes and Assistance - Unit 2)
Mr Neil ANSELL (Desk Manager International Dimension and Cooperation – Unit 2)
Mr Alexandre KEMPF (Desk Manager Training and IUU – Unit 2)
Ms Donianzu MURGIONDO (Head of Section Finance and Procurement – Unit 3)
Ms Rieke ARNDT (Head of Section HR and Legal - Unit 3)





Administrative Board

Agenda of the 27th meeting of the Administrative Board of the EFCA

on 5 April 2017 in Vigo

09h00 – 13h00

14h00 – 17h30

(D=decision; I=Information)

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| 1. | Approval of the draft agenda | D |
| 2. | Information from the Executive Director | I |
| 3. | Term of office of the Chair and Deputy Chair | D |
| 4. | Annual Report 2016 | D |
| 5. | Action plan of EFCA on the EUCG for 2017 | I |
| 6. | Draft single programming: Multiannual work programme 2018-2022 and Annual work programme for year 2018 | I |
| 7. | Five Year independent external evaluation of EFCA | I |
| 8. | Staff Regulation implementing rules | I |
| 9. | EFCA Seat agreement | I |
| 10. | Discussion on ways to further improve the working practices | I |
| 11. | AOB | |

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Handwritten signatures and initials.