

## Draft Minutes of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Monitoring Committee Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015

### *Participant/s:*

#### Members:

Mr. Raphael Scerri – Head of Managing Authority MEAIM (Chairperson)  
Mr. Claude Sammut – Director PDPID MEAIM  
Ms. Margaret Cassar – o.b.o. Permanent Secretary MSDEC  
Dr. Andreina Fenech Farrugia – Director General Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Mr. Joseph John Vella – o.b.o. Director Fisheries Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Mr. Mario Saliba – o.b.o. Permanent Secretary MGOZ  
Ms. Nancy Caruana – Permanent Secretary MEIB  
Ms. Moira Pisani – o.b.o. Permanent Secretary MTOR *absent*  
Ms. Carla Borg Ciscaldi – o.b.o. Permanent Secretary MEDE *absent*  
Mr. Malcolm Vassallo – o.b.o. Director General EAFRD  
Mr. Edmond Apap – o.b.o. Commissioner NCPE  
Mr. Ivan Buttigieg – President KNS  
Mr. Paul Piscopo – President GhKS  
Mr. Vince Attard – President Nature Trust  
Mr. Vincent Cassar – Chairman MEPA  
Mr. Joseph Sghendo – Director MFIN  
Mr. Anthony Cachia – Director General DOC  
Ms. Valerie Fenech – o.b.o. Director General Treasury  
Col. C. Spiteri – Colonel Operations AFM  
Capt. Richard Gabriele – o.b.o. Chairperson – Transport Malta  
Mr. Christopher Magri – Director (EU Funds) Managing Authority MEAIM

Mr. Paul Zahra – Permanent Secretary MEAIM *absent*  
Mr. Jonathan Vassallo – Director General PPCD *absent*  
Mr. John Bencini – Chairperson MCESD *absent*  
Dr. John Refalo – President MAP *absent*  
Ms. Astrid Vella – President FAA *absent*

#### Observers:

Mr. Alexander Hoehnke – European Commission Representative (DG MARE)  
Mr. Karmenu Azzopardi – EMFF Managing Authority  
Mr. Kurt Mifsud – EMFF Managing Authority

#### *Secretary:*

Ian Zerafa – EFF Managing Authority

*Time:* Meeting commenced at 1345hrs and ended at 1545hrs

#### *Abbreviations used:*

MC - Monitoring Committee; MOP – Manual of Procedures; MEAIM – Ministry for European Affairs and the Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto; PDPID - Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate; MSDEC – Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change; MGOZ – Ministry for Gozo; MEIB – Ministry for Economy Investment and Small Businesses; EAFRD – European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; NCPE – National

Commission for Promotion and Equality; KNS – Ko-operattiva Nazzjonali tas-Sajd; GhKS – Għaqda Ko-operattiva tas-Sajd; MEPA – Malta Environmental and Planning Authority; MFIN – Ministry for Finance; DOC – Department of Contracts; AFM – Armed Forces of Malta; EMFF – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund; MOT – Ministry for Tourism; PPCD – Planning Priorities and Coordination Division; MEDE – Ministry for Education and Employment; MAP – Malta Aquaculture Producers; FAA – Flimkien għall-Ambjent Ahjar; EC – European Commission

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The Chairperson welcomed the members for the first MC for the EMFF 2014-2020 OP. A brief run through of the proposed proceedings of the meeting was given to the committee members. The chair indicated that no comments were put forward to include new items under the 'other business' item in the agenda. The chair then instructed the members to sign the declaration of participation and impartiality.

The chairperson proceeded by passing on the floor to the Mr. Alexander Hoehnke the EC representative who in turn welcomed the members. Mr. Hoehnke asked the chairperson to include a point on 'simplification' under the 'Other Business' item in the agenda.

Chair person invited all the members to introduce themselves before kicking off the meeting.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda (Decision): Agenda approved by the committee.** *(Point on simplification to be included under the 'other business' item in the agenda).*
- 2. The Role of the Monitoring Committee and Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Monitoring Committee –** *(presented by Chris Magri)*

Mr. Magri elaborated on the mandate of the MC for the EMFF programme. Mr. Magri then proceeded by presenting the terms of reference of the MC. The Chairperson asked the EC and the members for any further comments before the approval of the TORs. Mr. Hoehnke remarked that the document is acceptable as is however there is one missing element in the TOR which is the list of the members, to which the Chairperson replied that the list of members will be published on the website but it will not be part of the Terms of Reference. Mr. Hoehnke also enquired about the Manual of Procedures and if it will be in any way presented to the MC. The Chairperson commented that the MOP is still being drafted and finalized. The manual will be accessible to all and will be a good guidance on the procedure of implementation of the projects. Although the MA does not need to present the MOP to the members for approval it will still circulate a copy of for information purposes and upload it on the MA website.

Mr. Paul Piscopo (GhKS) noted that Mr. Raymond Bugeja was replaced by Mr. Ivan Buttigieg (KNS). Mr. Piscopo also requested a version of the TORs to be translated in Maltese. The MA noted such request and agreed to circulate the translated version once available.

Mr. Joseph Sghendo (MFIN) commented on the equivalence of the observer member and a full voting member and noted that any reference to 'member' should include both observer and full voting member. The MA confirmed that the reference to a "member" also includes the observer member.

The EMFF MC TORs were approved unanimously by the committee.

### **3. EMFF Eligibility Criteria and Project Selection Criteria (Decision)**

The Chairperson gave a brief introduction and explanation on the difference between eligibility and selection criteria. Mr. Raphael Scerri proceeded by giving a presentation on the subject. Copy of the presentation is annexed to the minutes.

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> EMFF MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015  
VENUE: ST. ELMO - VALLETTA**

Mr. Hoehnke (EC) made a comment on the presentation regarding the title 'General Eligibility Criteria', stating that this should be re-named as 'admissibility criteria'.

The Chairperson asked for any further comments from the committee members. Mr. Anthony Cachia (DoC) commented that certain criteria include high marks and this may pose problems during the selection process. The MA answered that a manual of procedures for the Evaluation Committee is already drafted and guidance on how to award marks will be provided. The voting members shall decide how the project proposal addresses each of the criteria and assign points according to the following guide:

- Excellent 81 to 100% of points;
- Very good 76 to 80% of points;
- Satisfactory 50 to 75% of points;
- Very poor 26 to 49% of points;
- Unacceptable 01 to 25% of points.

Mr. Piscopo (GhKS) asked whether the calls will be addressed to Maltese and/or foreign applicants, to which the chairperson replied that calls will only be made available to Maltese registered vessels and/or fishermen. Mr. Piscopo mentioned the change of engine schemes to be made available for fishermen, pointing out that long liners with 3 engines are registered on the middle powered engine. Mr. Piscopo stressed the importance that the measure should not address horsepower of the engine and the regulation should be changed. The Chairperson quoted that Article 41 of Regulation (EU) 508/2014 mentions both main and ancillary engines.

Mr. Piscopo also enquired about availability of funding for training of Maltese fishermen abroad. The chairperson replied that this is possible, as long as the trainee is Maltese. The chairperson also pointed out that more points will be given for projects with an increased element of innovation. Mr. Piscopo continued by asking on whether the temporary cessation will be open for swordfish licenses, to which the chairperson replied that any call for cessation has always been and will be connected to the management plans – the same procedure as adopted during the EFF 2007-2013 programme. Mr. Piscopo also asked whether it is possible to provide aid for those new fishermen who have bought their vessels in the last three years considering that they will not have sufficient landing numbers to be eligible. The chairperson noted that according to the subsidiary legislation this is not possible.

Capt. Camilleri (TM) noted that a 30% reduction in engine power is too much and that this will affect speed and operation of the vessel – asked whether fuel efficient engines possible such as LNG be considered as an option? This would mean that an engine which in fact has a larger horsepower will be using less fuel. The chairperson replied that Article 41 of regulation 508/2014 should be followed.

Mr. Joseph Sghendo (MFIN – Certifying Authority) mentioned capacity issues at beneficiary level, namely that capacity should be properly available both at application and implementation level. Should capacity be reduced in any way, this will also affect the final results. The MA replied that capacity of the applicant organisation/body is very important and that is the reason why capacity was included in the admissibility criteria.

Mr. Anthony Cachia (DOC) enquired whether any funds will be allocated for the necessary upgrade and training of the involved human resources. The Chairperson replied that funds for capacity building will be made available through technical assistance as was always the case.

Mr. Piscopo commented that as things stand and if the EMFF legislation is not changed, no fisherman will be enticed to change their engine as this will definitely effect the operation of the fishermen as technically this is not possible to reduce such capacity especially for the larger vessels. The chairperson noted that fund will offer other funding opportunities including training, and temporary

cessation. Mr. Piscopo continued by noting that should the Euro6 engine regulation be implemented the amount allocated for the change of engines will not be enough to cover all vessels as these cost approximately 80,000EUR. The chairperson noted that budget shifts could be affected at any point when it is deemed necessary for funds not to be lost. The chairperson declared that further discussions on the replacement of engines funding opportunity will be bilaterally held with both cooperatives.

The Eligibility Criteria and Project Selection Criteria were approved unanimously by the committee.

#### **Update on Communication Strategy (Mr. Raphael Scerri)**

Informative presentation – no approval from the members required. Copy of presentation is attached to the minutes.

#### **4. EMFF Ex-Ante Conditionalities (Ing. Camilleri)**

Informative presentation on the ex-ante conditionalities of the programme, which are the conditions set by the EU to be fulfilled by the member state in order for the programme to be fully approved by the EU. No comments or questions were put forward by the committee members. Chairperson noted that the MC will be kept up to date with all the developments on the ex-ante conditionalities. Copy of presentation is attached.

#### **5. Any other Business**

Further to Mr. Hoehnke's comment, the subject of 'Simplification' was discussed under the "other business item" in the agenda. The MA informed the members that a new IT system (EMFF database) is procured through the Government IT Agency (MITA) and an on line application system will also be available. The revised simplified MOP will also play an important role in simplification contributing toward a more efficient implementation of the programme.

The chairperson asked the committee member for any further comments. Mr. Ivan Buttigieg (KNS) enquired about engine replacement and commented that effort should be made for the regulation to be revised. He also mentioned the importance for the upcoming calls to be widely published—publication in the government gazette is not enough to inform all the relevant stakeholders. Chairperson assured that as already communicated in the "communication strategy presentation" each and every call will be disseminated in the best way possible in order to reach all the potential applicants.

Mr. Piscopo commented that the fishermen's cooperatives can offer help with applications for prospective applicant and also suggested that the calls should be sensitive to the fishing seasons. The MA thanked both cooperatives for their collaboration and agreed to offer the necessary training to their representatives.

Chairperson reminded all the members to fill in declaration of participation and impartiality

The Chairperson thanked members for their presence and time.

End.

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Monitoring Committee Chairperson

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Monitoring Committee Secretary