

# EU Budget for 2012 – Reserve concerning expert groups – Follow up by DG MARE on the commitment taken by the Commission

Table I:

Code	Name of group	I. Review of the composition of groups which are not exclusively composed of national authorities <sup>1</sup>	
		Composition is balanced, because:	Composition is not balanced – Actions carried out/actions in preparation to remedy imbalances
E00520	The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)	<p>A call for expression of interest has been organised to select the members of the group. The selection is based primarily on the scientific expertise needed, taking account of nationality and gender balance whenever possible.</p> <p>Nationality and gender parity would be difficult to achieve because there is an imbalance already at the level of the applications received. However, the gender balance of the actual members is better (~30%) than in the applications received (~20%).</p>	
E00521	Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA)	<p>The composition is well balanced because the different stakeholder groups relevant for the Common Fisheries Policy are adequately represented in ACFA and its working groups. These stakeholders include industry representatives such as ship owners, producers, processors and aquaculture farmers; civil society organisations active in the field; and also consumers representatives.</p> <p>The composition and the functioning of ACFA are being reconsidered in the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy reform. It is envisaged to reinforce the representation of small scale fisheries in any future expert group.</p>	
E00526	RACs Coordination meetings	The 7 Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) cover	

<sup>1</sup> By "national authorities" we mean not only Member States' authorities, but also other countries authorities (candidate countries, accession countries, third countries etc.). Also excluded from this review are those groups, which are **exclusively** composed of national authorities and other public bodies at national and/or international level, such as EU agencies, EU bodies and international organisations.

		<p>5 sea areas and 2 fisheries and have been established for: the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the North Sea, North-western waters, South-western waters, pelagic stocks and the high seas/long distance fleet.</p> <p>The composition of RACs is laid down in the Council decision providing for their creation. Each RAC is composed of representatives of the fisheries sector (2/3) and representatives of groups having other interests in the fisheries area or in the fisheries concerned (1/3) (NGOs, local authorities, consumers).</p> <p>In addition, the 7 RACs cover well defined areas and have the same functions and structure and they are all bodies pursuing an aim of general European interest.</p> <p>As part of the Common Fisheries Policy Reform, it is envisaged to reinforce the involvement of NGOs and small scale fishermen within the RACs.</p>	
E02146	Marine Observation and Data Expert Group	<p>A call for expression of interest was organised to select the members of the group. The primary goal was to obtain a cross-section of expertise – i.e. biologists, physicists, chemists, geologists etc. The balance between different geographical origins (defined as where the expert is working) and different sexes was ensured whenever possible.</p> <p>The proportion of women in the final selection (24%) was approximately the same as the proportion who had applied.</p>	
E02518	Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the integration of maritime surveillance	<p>The members of the group represent the areas – called "user communities" – which have an interest in integration of maritime surveillance:</p>	

		<p>Maritime safety, security and prevention of pollution caused by ships; Fisheries control; Marine pollution, preparedness and response + Marine environment; Customs; Border control; General law enforcement; Defence.</p> <p>The representatives have mainly been proposed by the user communities themselves, via an existing Member State Expert Group or a representative body in the field. A Commission official is the representative for the Customs area, which is an EU exclusive competence. In the absence of a body at EU level representing 'the Defence community', the Commission nominated the member amongst the candidates proposed by the Member States.</p> <p>There is also a representative of the lead partner (Member State) of the on-going pilot project in the field of maritime surveillance.</p> <p>The TAG members shall liaise with his/her respective user community as appropriate to ensure adequate information flow and consensus on progress made.</p>	
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**Table II:**

Code	Name of group	II. Review of the groups which include individuals appointed in a personal capacity	
		Individuals appointed in a personal capacity are not in a conflict of interest, because:	Individuals appointed in a personal capacity are in a conflict of interest Actions carried out/in preparation:
E00520	The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)	<p>Members of the Committee are scientific experts participating in their personal capacity independent of their affiliations.</p> <p>Declarations of commitment are signed by each Member and non-member participant respectively</p>	

		<p>as laid down in the rules of procedure. Stakeholder representatives participate as observers only.</p> <p>When a working group is set up, STECF members and external experts showing interest in participating need to fill in a declaration of interest. Competences, skills and possible conflicts of interest are assessed and taken into account by the Commission, the STECF secretariat and the STECF chairs when the composition of the group has to be agreed.</p>	
E02146	Marine Observation and Data Expert Group	<p>Many members work for marine science organisations which participate in the partnerships launched by the Commission to develop marine knowledge in the framework of the Integrated Maritime Policy. However, nearly every marine science organisation in Europe is involved in these partnerships and it would be almost impossible to find competent experts outside these organisations.</p> <p>The rules of procedure clearly stipulate that potential interests must be declared on any point where it is relevant.</p>	<p>Only one member works for a profit-making private company. In view of his affiliation to a private company, we will change his status to "representative of stakeholders".</p>