

Improving the efficiency of the NWWAC

Item 3, Executive Committee
Dublin, 16 September 2015



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Not a new discussion

- **Previous discussion:**
 - 2012 (ExCom, Paris) - Pascale Beale – Performance assessment for the SWWAC;
 - 2013 General Assembly.
- **Current Rules and Procedures:**
 - 4 Working Groups;
 - + any groups ExCom decides.
- **ExCom July 2015:**
 - Discussion paper (Barrie Deas)

Strong points

- **Members:**
 - Can be involved at all levels;
- **WGs:**
 - Create input, put forward relevant subjects;
 - Have or can find local expertise.
- **Focus groups:**
 - Specialists deal with horizontal issues;
- **Advice Drafting Groups (ADG):**
 - Small and agile to draft advice;
- **ExCom**
 - Sets up processes, Finalises advice.

Weak points

- **Members:**
 - Time constraints;
- **WGs:**
 - Duplicate agenda items;
- **Focus groups and ADGs:**
 - Interpretation needs for stand-alone meetings;
- **ExCom;**
- **Fitting the meeting schedule into the Budget.**

Alternatives?

- **Avoid duplication:**
 - Horizontal issues in Focus groups or ADGs instead of WGs;
- **Concentrate meetings:**
 - Reduce travel time and costs;
 - Interpretation (add-on to other meetings);
- **Cheaper venues:**
 - Reduce travel and technical costs;
- **More correspondence work;**
- **Use of web-based meetings.**

Procedure proposals

- **Proposals for topics and groups:**
 - From Working Groups to ExCom (as currently);
 - To facilitate process for horizontal issues (new) from GA members to ExCom members.
- **ExCom will then:**
 - Identify and authorise the establishment of focus or drafting groups;
 - Define:
 - Clear Terms of Reference (Output) and timeframe;
 - Appointment of Chair and rapporteur;
 - Allocation of resources.

CONCLUSION?

Procedure proposals

- **Options for Working Groups:**
 - a) Restrict the role of WGs to dealing with issues of direct significance to sub-areas?
 - b) Only hold WG meetings if agenda items are available?
 - c) Reduce the frequency of WG meetings?
 - d) Abolish the tier of Working Groups altogether?
(requires change to the statutes)

CONCLUSION?

Procedure proposals

- **Reducing meeting frequency**
 - a) More correspondence work?
More translation costs but less reimbursements and interpretation costs;
 - b) Try web-based meetings?
Secretariat needs to investigate interpretation options.

CONCLUSION?

Procedure proposals

- **Reducing costs:**

- Reimbursements for Focus groups and ADGs:
 - a) For everybody that signs up? Or;
 - b) Maximum to be set by ExCom?

- Interpretation for standalone meetings:
 - a) Make interpretation dependent on funds available?
 - b) Secretariat to investigate sponsorship options from Member States or other sources?

CONCLUSION?

Thank you – Any questions?



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