

Communication from the National Coordinators Group to the Policy Area Nutri on the Steering Group Rules of Procedure

The NCG discussed the PA Nutri RoP draft version (Annex 5.1 in the meeting materials) in their meeting on Sep 15 2021. The changes made to the Common Structure are not in contradiction to the content of the Action Plan and the NCG endorses the inclusion of HELCOM secretariat as an observer member to the SG. The SG RoP is therefore endorsed by the NCG. No further NCG hearing or endorsement is needed unless the PA decides to invite more non-EU or other organizations memberships.

However, the NCG recommends the PA to consider the following recommendations in the next PA Nutri SG meeting and revise the RoP if the SG agrees.

The changes referred to are indicated in the attached PA Nutri SG RoP.

Change 1 (Article 1)

Original text: These Rules of Procedure apply to all meetings of the SG for Policy Area Nutri of the EUSBSR. If the SG is an existing cooperation body within a PAC organisation, it shall apply these Rules of Procedure when addressing issues regarding the Policy Area.

The NCG welcomes the change.

Change 2 (Article 2)

Original text: The members of PA Nutri Steering Group are listed in the Annex that will be updated in case of changes in SG membership and noting the SG presidency. The SG may be an existing cooperation body within the PAC organisation, if appropriate and approved by the NCG.

The NCG endorses the addition and HELCOM as observer.

Change 3 (Article 4)

Original text: Serving as a forum for dialogue and discussion regarding the implementation of the policy area;

The NCG welcomes the addition.

Change 4 (Article 5)

Original text: The SG chair will be decided by the SG normally on a yearly basis in a way that the same Member State does not, as a rule, hold the presidency for several years consecutively. In exceptional cases a chair can continue for two consecutive years. The objective is that the presidency will be held by all PA Nutri SG members in turn.

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The NCG recommends that the PA should open the question of a pre-set rotation in the near future and that 2 year presidencies should not become the norm and practise.

Change 5 (Article 5)

Original text: The SG meetings are chaired by the Presidency.

The NCG approves the change while noting that the original text in the Common Structure would have allowed for example the PAC to chair the meetings if necessary.

Change 6 (Article 11)

Original text: All meeting materials are published on the Nutri website taking into consideration the need for confidentiality.

The NCG welcomes the change.