



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting ArExec/09/2022

Record of Discussions and Decisions

07 September 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Beirut / Riyadh / Kuwait / Doha / Amman | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Cairo / Tripoli

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Tunis / Rabat

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Country	Function	Present	Regrets
Dr. Amine Kassouf	Lebanon	President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Ahmed A. Al-Bashah	Yemen	President-elect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prof. Samuel Godefroy	GFoRSS	Vice-president	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Narjes Maslah El Hammar	Tunisia	Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Amal Al-Rashdan	Kuwait	Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Abubakr Salama	Morocco	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Elie Bou Yazbeck	Lebanon	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Gouda Abdalla Ramadan Gouda	Qatar	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Khalid Ghaffar	Waters Corporation - UAE	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Moustapha Nabeel Mohamed Ahmed	Egypt	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Reem Mahmoud Alqaisi	Jordan	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Sakina El Khabuli	Libya	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The 4th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL was held on Wednesday September 07, 2022, in a virtual format via Zoom.

A. Review of the Agenda

Quorum of attendance was achieved with the presence of all 12 members.

The proposed agenda was reviewed and adopted by the executive committee members attending the meeting.

B. Review and approval of 06 July 2022 Record of Decisions (ROD)

Executive committee members approved unanimously the ROD of the previous meeting.

Here, the Executive Committee was also briefed about the publishing strategy adopted by the section, which relies on complete transparency. Therefore, agendas and RoDs are published on the section's website, after each meeting, following the approval of the Executive Committee.

C. Review and endorsement of new members to the Arab section

An Excel worksheet listing all new applicants to the Arab Section was sent for the consideration of the members before the meeting. This list enclosed two categories of applicants:

- applicants belonging to the initial list of candidates sent to AOAC INTERNATIONAL, when preparing the initial request file for the creation of the Arab section. This list enclosed 13 names, previously selected as potential members of both AOAC INTERNATIONAL and the Arab Section.
- 17 new applicants, through the e-application form accessed on the section's website.

The discussion regarding this item was launched by introducing the first category of applicants, suggesting an automatic endorsement by the Executive Committee. It was highlighted that several reminders were sent to the 13 candidates, about the need to activate their accounts at the AOAC INTERNATIONAL official website, for their application to be validated. Some members suggested to follow-up individually with some names, to locate the problem and hopefully solve this issue.

Members discussed then some updates to be brought to the e-application to facilitate the assessment of new applicants. Here, the executive committee endorsed the addition of a field related to the institutional email of the applicants and another one where applicants will be asked to upload a CV or resume. Prof. Godefroy brought to the attention of the committee that an electronic endorsement system, already adopted by GFoRSS, can be also used for the electronic endorsement of new applicants to the section.

The list of new applicants was then presented to the consideration of the executive committee where 28 new members were endorsed, and 2 applications were revoked for lack of reliable information and/or affiliation to another geographical jurisdiction.

The executive committee was informed that new members will be notified about their official endorsement by email and the 2 revoked applications will be also notified, with the reasons behind the revocation.

Members discussed afterwards the advertising strategy that the section may implement to increase the numbers of new applicants and reach-out to as many new members as possible. It was agreed that an official invitation letter should be prepared and sent to key institutions (academic institutions, industrials, governmental etc.) to invite them to participate actively to the section. In this context, it was agreed to benefit from GForSS social media platforms for a first advertising campaign to encourage new applicants from the Arab region.

D. Launching of a survey on Arab Food Control Laboratories / Analytical Methods Applied for Total Aflatoxins

The executive committee discussed this item, related to the launching of a survey effort targeting official food control laboratories in the Arab region for the purpose of creating a database to be posted on the website of the section. This effort will constitute the benchmark for future activities, allowing to create a network of these Arab laboratories, with a focal point in each one of them, to be followed by a questionnaire about their needs and challenges in terms of food analytical sciences. This step will allow the section to prioritize and strategize its future projects, to be oriented towards helping the analytical science community in the Arab region to overcome these challenges.

The executive committee discussed valuable ideas related to the fields of the database, the required information to be included and the implementation strategy and agreed on the creation of a sub-committee for this purpose, constituted of the following members: Dr. Amine Kassouf, Dr. Moustapha Nabeel, Eng. Narjes Maslah El Hammar, Dr. Elie Bou Yazbeck and Dr. Gouda Ramadan. This sub-committee will work on a proposal to be submitted for the consideration of the Executive committee before implementation in the Arab world.

The discussion about the creation of the Arab Food Laboratory Database was followed by a very interesting exchange about the analytes or groups of analytes and the food commodities that may be considered for a first work on analytical method convergence in the Arab region. Members expressed their high interest for several analytes and commodities, setting priorities for total aflatoxins, heavy metals including mercury and Arsenic speciation and pesticide residues.

E. Review and adoption of the provisional program of the Arab Section's Annual Meeting

The executive committee members were briefed about the undergoing preparations for the 1st annual meeting of the section, to be held October 31, 2022 in the framework of the 16th Dubai International Food Safety Conference (DIFSC2020).

Unanimous support was expressed by all members regarding this endeavor. Afterwards, the provisional draft program was reviewed and endorsed. Members expressed their full support and suggested to help in reaching out to potential key speakers from Arab laboratories, to participate in the session dedicated for challenges and needs of the Arab region in terms of analytical sciences capabilities.

F. Settlement of date for the upcoming meeting

All members renewed their agreement to organize frequent meetings in the purpose of maintaining the momentum initiated since the creation of the section.

G. Adjournment

The Executive Committee meeting was concluded at 1:45 PM Beirut time, 12:45 PM Cairo time and 11:45 AM Rabat time.