

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting ArExec/04/2024

Record of Discussions and Decisions

Monday 22 April 2024

Virtually

1 PM (GMT+1)

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Amal Al-Rashdan	Kuwait	Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Abubakr Salama	Morocco	Member-at-large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Elie Bou Yazbeck	Lebanon	Member-at-large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Gouda Abdalla Ramadan Gouda	Qatar	Member-at-large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Reem Mahmoud Alqaisi	Jordan	Member-at-large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Sakina El Khabuli	Libya	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS – HIGHLIGHTS

The 9th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL was held on Monday, April 22, 2024, virtually via Zoom.

Review and adoption of the proposed agenda

The quorum of attendance was achieved with the participation of 6 members out of 12.

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

Review and approval of 24 January 2024 Record of Decisions (ROD)

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

Updates about the Second Symposium of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Amine Kassouf provided an update on the preparations for the second symposium of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, scheduled to take place on May 7-8, 2024, in Amman, Jordan. He outlined the various sessions planned for the symposium, highlighting key topics to be addressed. These include the Proficiency Testing Program of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, Pesticide Residue Analysis in Food, Food Fraud Detection, and Allergen and Gluten Analysis in Food.

Dr. Kassouf also announced a dedicated training session on gluten detection in food, which will be held on May 5-6, 2024, and will be organized for the Military Laboratories for Quality Control of the Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army, with the participation of delegates from the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) and the Jordan Standardization and Metrology Organization (JSMO).

Updates about PT survey and invitation for participation in the call for methods

PT survey:

Dr. Amine Kassouf provided an update on the recently launched Proficiency Testing (PT) Survey, which seeks to gather insights from food laboratories across the Arab region regarding their priorities and challenges in proficiency testing. He outlined that the survey was initially distributed via official email to members of the Arab Section and has been subsequently promoted through social media platforms to ensure maximum participation.

Later, Professor Samuel Godefroy briefed the Executive Committee about his recent discussions with the leadership of AOAC International during their mid-year meeting, where they explored potential collaborations to develop proficiency testing (PT) programs tailored to the specific needs of the Arab region. The goal of these efforts is to make PT programs more accessible and affordable for stakeholders in the region. He also emphasized the importance of the ongoing survey in identifying key priorities and needs.

Call for methods:

Prof. Samuel Godefroy outlined that the Arab section of AOAC International will act as a platform for harmonizing food analytical methods used for regulatory purposes, with the potential to provide advisory support to standardization organizations at both the regional and sub-regional levels, such as the GSO and AIDSMO. He emphasized that the initial focus will be on gluten testing methods, an area that AOAC International has been working on recently, and which has seen ongoing harmonization efforts, including significant interest at the Codex level. The first step will involve issuing a call for data to regulatory food laboratories in the Arab region, requesting information on the methods they employ to test gluten in gluten-free foods.

As the next step, Professor Samuel outlined that the Arab Section would form a small group to develop criteria for validating and accepting reference methods, create performance requirements based on AOAC's guidance for gluten method validity, and evaluate a selection of methods submitted through the call for data.

Settlement of the date for the upcoming meeting

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

Adjournment

The Executive Committee meeting was concluded at 2:10 PM Rabat time.

