



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

mipaaf

Ministero delle
politiche agricole
alimentari e forestali

GFCM 39 INFORMATION NOTE

The **thirty-ninth session** of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (**GFCM**) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Economic (FAO of the UN), including the **ninth session** of the GFCM Compliance Committee (**CoC**) and the **sixth session** of the GFCM Committee on Administration and Finance (**CAF**), will be held from **25 to 29 May 2015** at the **Michelangelo Hotel Conference Centre** in **Milan, Italy**. It will be hosted by the Government of Italy, through its Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry Policies.

Meeting venue and address

Sala Auditorium, Italian Pavilion, EXPO 2015, Fiera Milano Rho (opening ceremony)

Michelangelo Hotel**** Conference Centre
Piazza Luigi di Savoia, 6 Milan, Italy
(in front of Stazione Centrale, Milan central railway station)
Tel: +39 0267551
Fax +39 026694232
Website: www.michelangelohotelmilan.com

OFFICIAL INVITATIONS

The invitations are being sent to Members' and partners' competent authorities through the usual diplomatic channels.

Please duly consider this Information Note in order to plan your attendance to this important session accordingly, in light of the high season and busy period for Milan during the EXPO.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening for the GFCM 39 will take place at **10:00** hours on **Monday, 25 May 2015** in the Sala Auditorium of the **Italian Pavilion** in **EXPO Milano 2015**.

Following the morning session, the afternoon will be free to visit the EXPO. Entrance tickets are kindly being provided by the host country to GFCM participants.

Delegations wishing to host cocktail receptions or refreshment breaks are invited to give prior notice to the GFCM Executive Secretary in order to facilitate the coordination and notification of events by the Secretariat. A detailed programme for the opening day will be provided together with meeting badges and EXPO tickets, during on-site registration.

Additional information, initiatives, news and more about the EXPO Milano 2015 can be found at the below links:

Official website: <http://www.expo2015.org/en>

Italian EXPO Pavilion: <http://www.padiglioneitaliaexpo2015.com/en/>

Participating countries: <http://www.expo2015.org/en/participants/countries>

United Nations, EXPO Official Participant: <http://www.un-expo.org/en>

European Union, EXPO Official Participant: <http://europa.eu/expo2015/>

Expo Gate, information point in the heart of Milan: <http://www.expo2015.org/en/learn-more/expo-gate>

HOLDING OF THE SESSIONS

The subsequent days of GFCM 39 (from **Tuesday 26 to Friday 29 May 2015**) will take place in the **Sala Michelangelo** of the Michelangelo Hotel Conference Centre. The formal sessions of the meeting will be held daily from 9:00 to 12:00 hours and from 14:00 to 17:00 hours.

For more information, please refer to the provisional agenda, which is available on the GFCM website at: <http://www.gfcmonline.org/meetings/commission-39-coc-9-caf-6>

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

REGISTRATION

Credentials

Members of delegations are kindly requested to send their official credentials to GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org at the earliest convenience, duly signed by the appropriate authorities of their respective Governments/agencies/organizations (sample format available on the GFCM website). Heads of delegation should be clearly specified in order to facilitate the potential organization of ad-hoc meetings. Originals of credentials can be provided to the Secretariat staff directly at the session in Milan.

Online pre-registration

Participants are requested to register online at <http://www.gfcmonline.org/meetings/commission-39-coc-9-caf-6> well in advance, and **no later than Monday 18 May 2015**, to facilitate compilation of the list of participants and especially smooth coordination of the issuance of badges.

Please note that registering online prior to the meeting is mandatory in accordance with standard United Nations security procedures. Online registrations must be supported by signed credentials, as appropriate.

On-site registration: meeting badges and EXPO tickets

Participants are requested to obtain meeting badges at the registration desk that will be set up by the Secretariat in the entrance of the Michelangelo Hotel Conference Centre.

Badges and EXPO tickets may be picked up according to the following registration schedule:

Sunday, 24 May 2015 from 17:00 hours to 19:00 hours

Monday, 25 May 2015 from 08:00 to 08:30 hours.

A **transfer** to the Italian Pavilion at EXPO for participants having obtained their meeting badge will be ensured on **Monday 25 May at 8.45 hours from the main entrance** of the Michelangelo Hotel Conference Centre.

A **transfer back** from the Italian Pavilion at EXPO to the main entrance of the Michelangelo Hotel Conference Centre will be ensured at **18.30 hours** of Monday 25 May.

DOCUMENTS

As part of the efforts by the Commission to reduce the amount of paper used in conjunction with its sessions, the GFCM 39 will be a **paperless meeting**. Only copies of the meeting agenda will be made available.

All pre-session documents will be made available as they are issued in the [GFCM 39 SharePoint Portal](#) in English or also translated in the working languages of the Commission, as appropriate (access credentials have been distributed or can be requested to the GFCM Secretariat).

Members are urged to submit any proposal for a GFCM decision (recommendation, resolution, other) enough in advance of the session in order to allow for a timely review by participants. Proposals and any other communication for the attention of the Commission should be sent to the Secretariat, which will make them immediately available to participants through the GFCM 39 Portal.

Documents for in-session circulation or distribution should be handed to any member of the GFCM Secretariat. Prior notification of such a request would be greatly appreciated.

COC NATIONAL REPORTS

Contracting parties to the GFCM are kindly invited to send to the GFCM Secretariat, **by Friday 8 May 2015**, their national reports on the implementation of GFCM decisions taken at the 37th and 38th sessions of the Commission, according to the established standard format (available online).

THE HOST CITY: MILAN

Hotel accommodation

Participants are free to choose their accommodation and **responsible for booking** their own rooms.

The Michelangelo Hotel (meeting venue) has rates of around 220€ for a single and 260€ for a double, breakfast included.

The meeting venue is central and well connected; there are several other options (from 2 to 4 star hotels / apartments / other type of accommodation) within walking distance or easy reach for participants.

Among the closest hotels to the meeting venue are the Hotel Bristol, Andreola Central Hotel, Starhotels Echo, Starhotels Anderson, Best Western Atlantic Hotel, Hotel Berna and Aosta Minihotel.

Transport from Airport

Participants should **make their own transportation arrangements** from the airport of arrival to their respective hotels. Several transfer options are readily available at the airports servicing Milan as follows:

MILANO MALPENSA AIRPORT (<http://www.milanomalpensa-airport.com/en>)

Malpensa Express train (from Terminal 1)(free shuttle from other terminals to Terminal 1)
Departures every 30 minutes to Stazione Centrale; 10€; 50 minutes ride.

Malpensa Bus Express/Malpensa Shuttle Air Pullman:

Departures every 20 minutes to Stazione Centrale; 10€; 50 minutes ride.

Taxi

Fixed fare at 90€; around 1hr drive, depending on traffic.

MILANO LINATE AIRPORT (<http://www.milanolate-airport.com/en>)

There is no railway connection from Linate airport.

Air Bus

Departures every 30 minutes to Stazione Centrale; 5€; 50 minutes ride.

Taxi

Total cost should be between 10 and 20€

ORIO AL SERIO (BERGAMO) AIRPORT

(<http://www.sacbo.it/Airpor/portalProcess.jsp?languageID=2>)

OrioShuttle – Line 1

Departure every 30 minutes to Stazione Centrale; ticket from 4€; 50 minutes ride.

Taxi

Total cost should be around 100€ (45-60 minutes ride)

SOCIAL EVENT

On Monday, 25 May, at 20.30 hours, the Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Italian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry Policies will host a Welcome Dinner for participants. Further information will be provided at a later stage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

GFCM Secretariat

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GFCM website: www.gfcmonline.org

GFCM 39 webpage: <http://www.gfcmonline.org/meetings/commission-39-coc-9-caf-6>

*Participants may follow the GFCM **Twitter** account at https://twitter.com/UN_FAO_GFCM to receive updates on the preparation and conduct of the session.*