

Permanent Representations of EU Member States

CC: ECGFF Members and observers, EFCA AB
Members, EMSA AB Members, Frontex MB
Members.

Brugge, Vigo, 07 February 2023

Invitation to a joint ECGFF - EFCA workshop on "Use of evidence produced by innovative fisheries surveillance and inspection technologies" on 2-4 May 2023 in Brugge, Belgium.

Your Excellency,

The Belgian Chairmanship of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) along with the Sea Fisheries Service of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of Belgium and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) are pleased to invite the relevant national experts to a workshop on:

" Use of evidence produced by innovative fisheries surveillance and inspection technologies"

**from 2 to 4 May 2023
at Hotel Crowne Plaza
Burg 10, 8000 Brugge, Belgium**

In the framework of the European cooperation on coast guard functions, the three European Union Agencies, namely EFCA, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) have been closely cooperating with the ECGFF in the implementation of activities identified as priorities by the Member States Chairing the Forum. The Belgian Chair of the ECGFF identified, together with EFCA, the theme of this workshop as an important one to be addressed for the Coast Guard and fisheries control community.

The general objective of the workshop is the exchange of best practices to further develop and enhance cross-sector and cross-border synergies on the subject of the workshop. Main discussion topics will be related to innovative and emerging surveillance technologies, such as Earth Observation and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), and the use of evidence obtained through these technologies.

The objectives of the workshop and a draft agenda are attached to this invitation for your perusal (Annex I). Within this context, the ECGFF Chair, EFCA and the Sea Fisheries Service would like

to invite up to three representatives from the relevant national authorities carrying out Coast Guard functions per Member State. It would be greatly appreciated if you could send experts to this workshop with the appropriate professional backgrounds to address the different topics for discussions; active participation of experts is a key factor to make this workshop a success.

In addition to the three experts taking part physically, it will be also possible to attend this workshop remotely to enable a broader participation of your national experts.

Please kindly remind the participants to submit their registration before **14 April 2023**, by filling the registration form at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ECGFF-EFCAWorkshop2to4May2023>

Please note that, during this time of the year, Brugge is very busy with many meetings and congresses taking place in the city. We therefore recommend booking hotel rooms in advance. For the booking of hotel rooms in the **Hotel Crowne Plaza Brugge**, where the workshop will take place, the following link can be used until **2 March 2023** (rooms are blocked for the event until this date):

<https://book.passkey.com/go/EFCA23>

After the 2 March 2023, the booking of rooms will depend on availability. As the venue of the workshop is central, booking of rooms in other hotels is possible upon respecting the ceiling for reimbursement as included in Annex II.

In case of any questions, do not hesitate to liaise directly with the Belgian ECGFF Project Office in charge of preparing this event: ecgff.be@nccn.fgov.be with eu.coastguard@efca.europa.eu in cc.

We look forward to meeting your national experts at the event.

Yours faithfully,

Nathalie Balcaen
Belgian co-Chair ECGFF

Piet Pieters
Belgian co-Chair ECGFF

Dr. Susan Steele
EFCA Executive Director

Patricia De Clercq
Belgian Department of Agriculture and
Fisheries Secretary-General

Annex I

ECGFF – EFCA Workshop on the Use of evidence produced by innovative fisheries surveillance and inspection technologies

2 – 4 May 2023 –Bruges/Ostend, Belgium

Objective of this workshop:

Adequate fisheries surveillance and inspection capacities are key to ensuring compliance with relevant fisheries regulations and thus reaching the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Proper enforcement requires establishing solid evidence in case of a potential non-compliance situation. In recent years, the use of innovative surveillance and inspection technologies, such as earth observation, remote sensing, vessel detection technologies and many others have led to a wide range of potential new ways of collecting evidence.

The objective of the workshop is to:

- Provide an overview of existing and emerging surveillance technologies and the type of evidence they could provide.
- Outline the legal requirements and challenges in view of using such evidence in enforcement and legal follow-up / prosecution procedures.
- Exchange views and collect feedback on the actual operational use, experiences, and challenges related to the use of evidence sourced from innovative technologies.

ECGFF – EFCA Workshop on the Use of evidence produced by innovative fisheries surveillance and inspection technologies

2 – 4 May 2023 –Bruges/Ostend, Belgium

Draft Agenda

2 May 2023

Time	Agenda item	
19:00 -21:00	Ice-breaker	Crowne Plaza Hotel Brugge

3 May 2023

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:30	Welcome and opening	Belgium authorities and EFCA
09:30-10:00	Present and future perspectives on maritime surveillance and use of evidence in Belgium	National authorities Belgium
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation of the relevant legal framework, existing surveillance technologies and their potential for the collection of evidence in support of fisheries control activities	EFCA
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:10	Presentation of the relevant legal framework, existing surveillance technologies and their potential for the collection of evidence in support of fisheries control activities	Other EU Agencies
11:40 – 12:30	Lunch	
Time	Agenda item	Speaker
12:30 – 13:45	Transfer to Oostende port	
13:45 – 16:40	Visit of FPV's & MRCC Port of Oostende	Oostende port
16:40 – 17:15	Transfer to Bruges	
19:30	Dinner	

4 May 2023

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
09:00 – 09:10	Summary of the first day	Moderator
09:10 – 11:00	Using evidence produced by surveillance technologies in practice. Member State Presentations & Panel Discussion	MSs / EFCA
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 - 11:45	Video: Fisheries Control	Sea Fisheries Service
11:45 - 12:15	Debriefing Security exercise ministry of Defence	Ministry of Defence
12:15 - 12:30	Workshop conclusions and closing remarks	Sea Fisheries Service / EFCA
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

Annex II – EFCA Reimbursement Rules