



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Strengthening NWWAC Governance: A Strategic Update

Building a framework that supports a professional, collaborative, and stakeholder-driven Council.

8 July 2026

The case for proportionate reform

- Addressing previous **procedural gaps** to ensure the AC is fit for future leadership appointments.
- Incorporation of the **latest legal** recommendations and developments
- Focusing on proportionality to **provide clarity and workable safeguards** without creating unnecessary bureaucracy.
- **Proactively protecting** the Secretariat and members to maintain a satisfying work environment.



Progress and strategic alignment



Co-signing joint advice with other Advisory Councils to ensure a consistent management approach.



Coordinating with DG MARE to align internal rules with upcoming EU-wide functional guidelines.



Differentiating between current structural updates and future options still under exploration.



PHASE 1: COMPLETED

Joint AC Advice & Synergy



PHASE 2: IN PROGRESS

DG MARE Functional Alignment



PHASE 3: UPCOMING

Strategic Future Options

Governance and behavioural frameworks

- Distinguishing between **code of conduct** for behavioral expectations and **Rules of Procedure** for governance/operational processes
- Defining clear **roles and responsibilities** for Chairs and the Secretariat to prevent operational ambiguity
- Set out **unambiguous** appointments and processes / implementing complaints procedures



We are creating a clear distinction between how we behave and how we operate to ensure accountability at all levels.

Exploring respect and resolution mechanisms



Exploring appropriate and proportionate mechanisms for confidential reporting of concerns



Framing conflict-resolution options as potential paths being aligned with broader AC discussions



Fostering a professional and respectful environment supported by clear, agreed-upon procedures

Our shared governance objectives with the Rules of Procedures and the Code of Conduct:

Clearer governance

Better meetings

More transparency

Better support for Chairs

A stronger role for the Secretariat

Clearer ways of dealing with disagreement

Next steps

- 15 July Inter-AC meeting organised by COM
- July Updated Code of Conduct & Rules of Procedure
- 29 July Review and feedback with the NWWAC management team
- Aug – Sept Finalisation Governance Framework
- Sept Circulation of documents in advance of NWWAC meetings
- 23 Sept Presentation at the General Assembly
- End of Sept Final approval ExCom



This is a work in progress; your feedback on priorities will directly shape the final framework presented in September.



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