1. **Opening of the meeting**
   The Chair Gylfi Geirsson, Iceland, welcomed the participants.
   The Chair noted that the WG should try to make the most out of the three days meeting.
   He noted that next meetings will have 2 days each and that participants expected to fully
   use both days.
   All Contracting Parties were represented and the detailed list of the 17 participants is, as
   set out in document AHWG ERS 2017-01-02, annexed to this report.

2. **Discussion and adoption of the agenda and appointment of the Rapporteur**
   The agenda was approved in the form circulated before the meeting, as presented in
   document AHWG ERS 2017-01-01 annexed to this report.

   The Secretariat was appointed as the Rapporteur.

3. **Further work on the FLUX UN/CEFACT implementation document for the context
   of NEAFC**
   The Chair briefly introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-08 “List of comments for
   discussion from second draft EU/NEAFC implementation document”.
   Participants considered each question on the document and discussed the answers.
   Additionally participants exchanged views on possible specific technical solutions.

   The Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-13 “Information paper submitted
   by the Chair – Questions for PECMAC and PECMAC’s response”. There were some
   requests for clarifications on the procedure for the implementation and procurement of
   ERS.
The EU presented document AHWG ERS 2017-01-06 on “Second draft version of an implementation document for NEAFC”. Participants discussed the document and requested some clarification on specific issues within the document. Document AHWG ERS 2017-01-06 will be updated and improved before next meeting.

The EU introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-07 “Second draft version of fishing activities domain diagram for NEAFC” updating the domain diagram in line with the second draft implementation document and discussions in the ERS working group.

The Secretariat introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-09 “Secretariat observations on the first draft EU/NEAFC implementation document.

The document AHWG ERS 2017-01-06 on “Second draft version of an implementation document for NEAFC” addressed the majority of these comments, however the second document was not received prior to the comments being drafted by the Secretariat. Some issues not addressed by the update were discussed.

4. First views on proposed amendments of the Scheme

The Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-04 “Draft list of articles and annexes of NEAFC Scheme requiring amendments for ERS”. The participants reviewed in detail the document that is a draft text for the amendment of the Scheme.

The Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-03 “Draft amendments to articles of the Scheme required by ERS”. The participants reviewed in detail each article and the implications of the amendments. Norway presented a text with amendment to art14. Participants discussed the proposal in detail. Iceland presented a possible amendment to article 25. Participant discussed the implications of such amendment.

It was noted that special attention needed in the future evaluation of article 18 and it’s relation with articles 11,12,13,14.

Discussions are reflected in the amended document AHWG ERS 2017-01-03 Rev1.

The Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-14 “Possible Scheme changes – Annexes and Appendixes”. The participants reviewed in detail each annex and the discussions are reflected in the amended document AHWG ERS 2017-01-14 Rev1.

5. Discussion on requirements for the new NEAFC system

The Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-05 ”Communication flow diagram”. The Secretariat introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-10 “ System requirements not part of annex VIII catch and activity messages” and the Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-11 “Proposal from PECMAC on an electronic reporting system (ERS) for NEAFC” which is a reference document that was accepted by the Commission as the basis for the continued work.

The participants asked specific questions related to the documents and the Secretariat replied.

The common view that a “step-by-step” approach is the way forward, noting that the Secretariat needs an integrated system that will provide flexibility both in its managements and on the users’ access.
6. **Status of testing the FLUX transportation layer and the VMS data exchange with NEAFC Secretariat**  
   
The EU described developments to date both in the UN-CEFACT fisheries standard project and the FLUX FMC tools. Development has been slower than expected but within reasonable timeframe.  
It was noted that UN-CEFACT fisheries standard is getting momentum and a specialised working group is being set-up. Other RFMOs are either taking an interest on the standard or mentioning it in documents as a possible global standard solution.  
It was noted that some EU member States are already exchanging VMS data and that some tests were conducted with NEAFC and NAFO in 2016.

7. **Preparation of a transition plan**  
   
The Secretariat presented document AHWG ERS 2017-01-12 “Trackwell proposed solution” prepared by the service provider. The proposed solution is set up in such a way that the Secretariat’s system will be able to communicate in different formats with the different CPs in the transition period.  
The participants discussed in detail different approaches, the priorities and ordering of steps. It was noted that there is necessary to establish clear acceptance criteria for the “proof of concept” prior to the June meeting.

8. **Any other business**  
   
Norway raised issues related to messages validation and error procedures. There was some discussion on this issue but no conclusion were reached.

The Secretariat produced document AHWG ERS 2017-01-15 “ERS Project outline and action plan”. The participants considered that this was an important contribution in order to have a clear view of the next steps and their timing.  

Participants considered the possibility to send JAGDM relevant question relating to the ERS development but the conclusion was that it is premature to address JAGDM.  

The Chair asked participants to continue working between the meetings and asked the Secretariat to establish a group e-mail address for easy communication between the participants. The Chair will have relevant documents sent to the group and further asked the group to split the work between those with a technical background and those with control and enforcement background.

9. **Report to the April 2017 meeting of PECMAC**  
The Chair will report on the developments to the next PECMAC meeting on 25 and 26 April in London.

10. **Date and place of the next meeting**  
The Chair confirmed the date for the next meeting as 28 and 29 March in London.

11. **Closure of the meeting**  
The Chair thanked the participants and the Secretariat for the good work and wished all a safe return home.