



**European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)  
(Northern Pelagic Working Group – NPWG)**

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28 June 2012

**Press release**

**The EU pelagic fishing industry welcomes the EU wide agreement on a sanction measure against countries engaged in unsustainable fishing practices**

The EU pelagic fishing industry warmly welcomes the agreement reached this week between the European Parliament and the Danish Presidency acting on behalf of the Council of Fisheries Ministers on a trade sanction measure against countries that refuse to co-operate in their management of fish stocks that are shared with other countries. In particular the industry welcomes the fact that this agreement has a wide scope of application of possible trade sanction measures to include all fish and fish products and thereby considerably strengthen the effectiveness of the measure.

Speaking on behalf of the NPWG Gerard van Balsfoort said that “this outcome should give a strong signal to countries such as Iceland and the Faroe Islands that the EU will soon be able to retaliate against the irresponsible behaviour by these two countries in their mackerel fisheries by import restrictions that not only include mackerel related imports into the EU market place but all fish imports from these countries; including the extensive whitefish imports”.

After the launching of the proposal by the European Commission in December 2011 and the very clear position by the European Parliament on this proposal the NPWG acknowledges the strong outcome as agreed between Parliament and Council as evidence that the new co-decision procedure has functioned well. In particular the NPWG wants to thank Irish MEP Pat the Cope Gallagher who played a crucial role as rapporteur for the Parliament on this topic.

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The agreement includes the following trade measures, which can be imposed on a country or territory fishing in an unsustainable manner:

1. Quantitative restrictions on the importations of fish into the EU including the stock of common interest and associated species;
2. The definition of associated species is broadly defined to cover a range of species not just mackerel and is based on FAO rules;
3. Further measures can be applied under the scope of the Regulation, if the initial measures prove to be ineffective;
4. Restrictions on the use of EU ports by vessels flying the flag of the country or territory deemed to be over fishing;
5. Restrictions on the use of EU ports by vessels transporting fish and fishery products from the stock of common interest and associated species;

6. Ban on the sale of fishing vessels, fishing equipment and supplies to the country or territory deemed to be overfishing;
7. Ban on reflagging of fishing vessels from an EU Member State to a country or territory deemed to be overfishing.

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