



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

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Press release

Fisheries Council reconfirms strong position on trade sanctions against Iceland and Faroe Islands

Yesterday's Fisheries Council discussed again trade sanctions against the irresponsible fishing of mackerel by Iceland and Faroe Islands and the unsustainable Atlanto herring fisheries by Faroe Islands. The majority of the Council and the European Commissioner Mrs Maria Damanaki agreed on the need to prepare effective sanction measures against the two countries with the aim to get both countries back at the negotiation table with an attitude to reach a fair sharing agreement for both stocks.

On behalf of the EU pelagic fishing industry Gerard van Balsfoort, chair of EAPO's Northern Pelagic Working Group, said: "We welcome this clear and unambiguous signal from the Council and Commissioner and we are confident that the first sanction measure will be decided and put in place during this month of July. After so many years of irresponsible behaviour of the two countries by fishing outside science based management for mackerel and, in the case of Faroe Islands, also for Atlanto herring, and by being totally non-responsive to any proposal brought to the table by the EU and Norway, the time has come to implement sanction measures. The approach the EU is now adopting is totally consistent with its ambitions for sustainable management of the fisheries as expressed in the newly agreed Common Fisheries Policy".

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