



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

31 July 2013

Press release

Member states back European Commission proposal to immediately implement trade sanction measures against Faroe Islands for overfishing

Today in Brussels member states discussed and decided positively on the European Commission's proposal to immediately implement a trade sanction measure against the Faroe Islands for their overfishing of the Northeast Atlantic herring stock. The EU pelagic fishing industry welcomes the decision by the Commission and member states.

On behalf of the EU pelagic fishing industry Gerard van Balsfoort, chair of EAPO's Northern Pelagic Working Group, said "we have waited a long time before our wish would be reality that the EU could implement trade sanction measures against third countries for irresponsible fishing behaviour on stocks shared with the EU. This has been decided today and we very much welcome the support given by the majority of the member states. The historical decision today – this time directed against the Faroe Islands for their overfishing of the Northeast Atlantic herring stock – will act as a strong signal to those countries that are not taking sustainable management of shared stocks seriously".

The EU fishing industry further notes that the sanction measure is directed at both the Faroese herring and mackerel exports to the EU as the two species are caught together in a mixed fishery and that the sanction measure can be extended when the measure would not achieve the desired effect, i.e. that the Faroe Islands come back to the negotiation table with a constructive attitude to come to a fair sharing and management arrangement for this stock.

The EU pelagic fishing industry calls upon the Commission to quickly finalize the procedures in order to set the sanction measure in working and to further investigate and prepare a sanction measure related to the overfishing of the Northeast Atlantic mackerel stock by both Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

The EU pelagic industry is fully committed to well managed and sustainable fisheries. We will continue to encourage Iceland and Faroe Islands to join us in this objective.

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