



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

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PRESS RELEASE

Pelagic industry outraged at blue whiting agreement with Norway and seeks urgent meeting with EU Fisheries Commissioner Vella

The EU pelagic fishing sector organized under the heading of the Northern Pelagic Working Group is appalled by the blue whiting agreement that was signed between the EC and Norway on 15 December and presented to the Council during the final phase of the December Council meeting.

The pelagic industry in the EU not only has invested an enormous amount of time and effort in developing a human consumption blue whiting fishery over the years but also has contributed greatly in developing sound, long term management of this stock.

The bilateral deal on blue whiting between the European Commission and Norway has outraged the pelagic industry because it is unbalanced, non-transparent and very far from what the EU industry demanded both in terms of form and numbers, which is why they are seeking an urgent meeting with EU Fisheries Commissioner Vella on this issue.

Contact:

Gerard van Balsfoort:

T +31 651 411 431

E gbalsfoort@pelagicfish.eu

Ian Gatt:

T +44 7803 041 021

E ian.gatt@scottishpelagic.co.uk

Sean O'Donoghue:

T +353 87 419 6535

E kfo@kfo.ie

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen:

T +45 61 66 09 78

E es@pelagisk.dk