

European Association of Fish Producers Organisations

Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche



EAPO / AEOP

H. Baelskaai 20 – 8400 OOSTENDE (Belgium)

Tel: +32 59 43 20 05

e-mail: info@eapo.com

website: www.eapo.com

EU Transparency Register number: 46491656228-65

Ms Charlina VITCHEVA

Director-General

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

European Commission

1049 BRUSSELS

Belgium

EAPO22-54

Oostende, 4 October 2022

Dear Ms. Vitcheva,

Subject: Break-even price in the STECF Annual Economic Report

EAPO attended Working Group 1 of the Market Advisory Council that took place on September 19th in Brussels. During this Working Group, we were provided with a presentation of the Annual Economic Report from the Scientific Technical Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

This presentation was very interesting as it provided an overview of the state of the European fishing fleet as well as forecasts of the impact of the ongoing fuel crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

At the end of this presentation, Raúl Prellezo showed us the result of a request to estimate the break-even fuel price for European fisheries. To our surprise, the computed result was 1.17 € per litre of fuel at European level. Members of EAPO were quite puzzled by the calculations at the very steep increase from 0.60 € per litre previously used as the standard within the EU.

With your recent request of strengthening the relations between the Commission and European fishers, we would like to ask for caution in publishing this result as it stands, in the next AER. As you know, European fishermen are facing an unprecedented crisis following COVID and Brexit that has resulted in the request for rapid implementation of

decommissioning schemes all around Europe and to vessels tying up. We fear that publishing a report that claims that 1.17 € is the break-even value, risks angering those fishers facing bankruptcy because of a fuel price much lower than 1.17.

We kindly ask that STECF publishes along this figure a detailed overview of the break-even price at a segment level.

We are available if needed to provide input as well as additional data.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Esben Sverdrup-Jensen', written in a cursive style.

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
President