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Position Paper on the Autonomous Quota (824/2007)

The EAPO is of the opinion that the relevant request for input into an ACFA written contribution hides a general and current extensive problem. There appears to be a proposal to increase the quantities of species under quota regulations coming into the E.U. on a tariff free basis. All over the E.U. the current first sale prices of the own production are suffering from reductions versus last year, in some cases up to 70 %. Indeed, there are examples where such prices do not even reach the level of 20 years ago. Therefore the following main points are herewith already put forward:

1. EAPO is very concerned that imports are having a very damaging affect on the prices Community fishermen obtain. Some whitefish (round fish and flat fish) and nephrops fish prices have reduced by almost 50% over the last twelve months.
2. EAPO does not support any increases in the quantities of imports allowed into the Community at zero tariff rated.
3. EAPO is of the firm view that the quantities allowed into the Community tariff free in the period 2010 to 2012 should in no circumstances be increased. In fact the present huge drop in prices suggests that these quantities should be reduced.
4. EAPO will be meeting the Commission on the 23rd April on the reform of the COM and one issue which we will address is the controls on imports and need for immediate changes in the COM in this respect. EAPO has already put forward suggestions in relation to this aspect last year.

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