

European Association of Fish Producers Organisations
Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche



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EAPO POSITION PAPER: Necessary strengthening of the EU-Fisheries Control Regulation

The Control Regulation No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) entered into force on 1 January 2010. The Regulation was developed to ensure that (1) rules are applied to all fisheries in the same harmonised way across the EU, (2) only the allowed quantities of fish are caught and (3) fishery products can be traced back and checked throughout the supply chain.

The adoption by Council took place in a swift process that did not include in-depth analysis of the technical and economic consequences and did not take into account the many interventions and warnings from stakeholders. Implementation of the Regulation in Member States has proven troublesome. Many rules are now having severe economic impacts on both fishermen and processing industries.

Action is needed. It is necessary to adjust a number of provisions in the control regulation in order to secure compliance, restore sense and justice and cut costs in the EU fisheries control policy, not to weaken it, but to strengthen it! The Commission tabled a proposal for an amendment of Regulation No. 1224/2009. The aim of the proposal is an alignment of the Control Regulation on the decision-making rules of the Treaty of the Functioning of the EU. Unfortunately it is not a response to the principal stakeholder's call to strengthen the Regulation.

With the reform of the CFP and the introduction of the landing obligation in the coming years it is essential that the control regulation – and control measures in general – are amended following the new policy. Not just for practical reasons, but primarily in order to ensure that the fishing and processing of fish products can continue to be a viable economic activity without facing heavy bureaucratic and economic burdens.

(EAPO – 28 October 2013)