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PRESS RELEASE: EAPO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DEBATE WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTION REPRESENTATIVES ON IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR FISH PRODUCERS ORGANISATIONS

The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations held its Annual General Meeting in Roscoff, Brittany - France, on 26 June hosted by the local member Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne. At the start of the meeting President Pim Visser reported on the past eventful and busy months for EAPO. Subsequently the chairmen of the respective working groups gave an overview of their recent activities. These working groups form the back bone of EAPO. The landing obligation, multi-annual management plans, marine spatial planning and markets & trade were topics attracting substantial attention. The POs' Production and Marketing Plans (PMPs) in this respect were at the centre of the debate.

The President of the Fisheries Committee in the European Parliament, Mr. Alain Cadec, attended the meeting as a guest. In a debate the EAPO members focussed on the parliamentary work on the landing obligation and on the legal basis of the measures in the cod recovery plan. The European Commission was represented by DG MARE B2 Head of Unit Mr. Christian Rambaud and Policy Officer Ms. Chiara Bacci. The topics addressed during this discussion were around the fact that POs are at the heart of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and around the subsequent importance of the PMPs and their financing. The need for these messages to reach a lot more European fish POs will lead to a continued close cooperation between DG MARE and EAPO.

After the meeting Pim Visser said: "The meeting was very well attended by our members, and most importantly the key issues very actively discussed with a number of important decisions taken that I am confident will lead to EAPO positively contributing to the ongoing developments under the CFP. I will ensure that EAPO will continue to be involved in relevant meetings and to produce position papers on issues of real importance to our expanding membership." He added: "That will not be possible without the continued assistance of the members of the Executive Committee whom I also thank for the current hard work. I also wish to thank our French member Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne for the great hospitality and for hosting an excellent meeting."

===== Ends =====

The EAPO represents 39 Producers Organisations from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels of all dimensions, 3.6 million tonnes of landings and a first sale value of € 3 billion.

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