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## **PRESS RELEASE: EAPO AGM AMSTERDAM**

### **MEMBERS AGREE POSITIVE MOVES ON DISCARDS PROPOSAL BY INDUSTRY**

### **CONCERN ABOUT ICES MACKEREL ADVICE PUBLISHED THE SAME DAY**

The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations held its Annual General Meeting in Amsterdam on 28 September hosted by the Dutch Pelagic PO and the Dutch PO's overarched by VisNed. This AGM meant the start of the second year of Sean O'Donoghue as President, Niels Wichmann as Treasurer and Jacques Pichon as Secretary.

The industry proposal to address discards as presented on 18 September<sup>(1)</sup> was an important item on the agenda on which there was a detailed discussion. The General Assembly of EAPO agreed on the need to highlight the workable alternative – put forward together with the colleagues of Europêche and Cogeca – to a broad audience. During the 28 September meeting the EAPO members decided on the required measures to do this.

During the meeting the news came in about the ICES advice on pelagic species. The advice on the much debated mackerel stock with a best case scenario TAC reduction of 15% initiated an immediate request from the members to reaffirm the impact of the non EU states (Faroe Islands and Iceland) on their totally irresponsible behaviour in setting unjustified autonomous quota of 300,000 t. The united view of EAPO members is that this must be stopped and that the sanction measures<sup>(2)</sup> adopted recently by the European Parliament and the Council of Fisheries Ministers must be immediately implemented.

The meeting was also attended by a member of the Directorate General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission who actively contributed to the debates. There was a constructive discussion about the evolution of the new Common Organisation of the Market (COM) regulation under the Common Fishery Policy (CFP) reform. Between Commission and EAPO it has been agreed to work closely together to achieve a COM focused on the European production. EAPO is pleased about the confirmation that the Commission sees an important role for the POs in the future CFP.

The 2012 EAPO AGM also started to address the future of the Association under the reformed CFP. It was agreed to constitute a working group to start internal discussions on the required representation to defend the interests of the European POs and the fisheries industry as a whole.

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- (1) See [www.eapo.com](http://www.eapo.com) - Publications - Alternative proposal discards approach by EU Industry
  - (2) See [www.eapo.com](http://www.eapo.com) - Publications - Press release on mackerel and EP vote

===== Ends =====

**The EAPO represents 34 Producers Organisations from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.5 million tonnes of landings and a first sale value of € 3 billion.**

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