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MEMBERS CALL FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON CFP, COM AND ON TAC AND QUOTA PROPOSALS 2012

SEAN O'DONOGHUE CONFIRMED AS PRESIDENT FOR A FURTHER TWO YEAR'S TERM

The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations held its Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh on 29th and 30th September hosted by the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (SFO) and the North East of Scotland Fishermen's Organisation (NESFO). The meeting was also attended by three members of the Directorate General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission who actively contributed to the debates.

EAPO members unanimously confirmed Sean O'Donoghue of the Irish Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO), as their President for a further two year's term. Commenting on the productive two days in Edinburgh Sean stated: "I am honoured to be re-elected and I am determined with the support of members to address in a meaningful way the major challenges facing EAPO over the next two years, particularly the CFP and COM proposals." He added: "The very productive two days meeting has identified the key areas of concern in both proposals such as the objectives, discards, regionalisation, mandatory transferable fishing concessions and role and functions of producer organisations. A clear mandate for significant changes was given which I will actively pursue on behalf of the members."

The two days discussions focussed on the Commission's proposals for a new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and a new Common Organisation of the Market (COM) as published on 13th July. A solid base was laid for comprehensive responses by EAPO on both proposals. These responses to be consolidated before the year end will contain a narrative indicating the requirement for significant necessary changes.

Another item on the meeting's agenda was the Commission's TAC and Quota proposals for 2012 as issued on 27th September. The EAPO members called upon the European Commission to reconsider the unjustified and arbitrary cuts across the vast majority of stocks. These cuts will do nothing for the sustainability of the stocks and in certain cases will lead to increased discards. This is contrary to the stated policy of Commissioner Damanaki.

==== Ends ====

The EAPO represents 33 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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