



Zeebrugge, 9 October 2014

## **PRESS RELEASE: EAPO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### ***PIM VISSER CONFIRMED AS NEW PRESIDENT***

#### ***EAPO WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ITS MEMBERS IN THEIR KEY ROLE UNDER THE NEW CFP***

The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations held its Annual General Meeting in Westport, Ireland on 3 October hosted by the Irish Fish Producers' Organisation (IFPO). President Sean O'Donoghue had announced at last year's assembly that he would step down in 2014. Accordingly, after his reporting on the past eventful and busy year for EAPO, he suggested to hand over the presidency to Pim Visser, CEO of VisNed, from the Netherlands. There were two more changes in the EAPO Bureau: Ivan Krarup Jensen took over from Niels Wichmann as Treasurer and José A. Suárez-Llanos took over the Secretary mandate from Jacques Pichon.

Sean O'Donoghue said: "After having had the same President for seven years it was time for EAPO to get a fresh face at the top. I am confident that Pim Visser's leadership will further enhance the engagement of EAPO in supporting its members to take up their key role under the new CFP". He added: "I will certainly remain active in the organisation as chairman of the newly formed EAPO Markets Working Group and member of the Executive Committee".

After the handover the new President expressed the EAPO members' gratitude to Sean O'Donoghue for his commitment and his achievement to have the organisation recognized as an entity in the European fisheries. Pim Visser then led the debate on the key topics on the agenda: (1) the Landing Obligation with the upcoming Discard Plans and the so called Omnibus regulation; and (2) the Common Organisation of the Market, the Markets Advisory Council, the PO's Production and Marketing Plans (PMP) and the funding foreseen under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to prepare and execute those PMPs. The invited guests from the European Commission, the fisheries science, Europêche and the Pelagic Advisory Council contributed actively to the discussions.

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 new 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 membership." He added: "That will not be possible without the assistance of the members of the Executive Committee whom I also thank for the hard work under my predecessor's leadership. I also certainly wish to thank our Irish member IFPO for hosting an excellent meeting."

**===== Ends =====**

The EAPO represents 36 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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