

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



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PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING ON AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES 14-15 DECEMBER 2015:

***EAPO CALLS UPON COUNCIL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE THREE PILLARS OF
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COMMON FISHERY POLICY OBJECTIVES WHEN
DECIDING ON TAC & QUOTA 2016***

In advance of the December Fisheries Council 2015 EAPO has sent its annual position paper with general observations and relevant recommendations for about 25 stocks to the Council Members. EAPO is calling on the Council of Fisheries Ministers to address the items in the European Commission's proposal which are unjustifiable particularly in respect of the actual objectives of the CFP.

Pim Visser, President of EAPO, says: "We do not agree with a number of unjustifiable reductions in the Commission's proposals for fishing opportunities for key stocks in 2016. I am calling on the Council of Fisheries Ministers to find a workable and realistic solution to avoid the potentially devastating impacts, both biological and economic, such cuts will have on the European fishing industry. If these reductions are adopted without any change, it is inevitable that the outcome for a number of important fisheries in 2016 will be substantial difficulties to maintain sustainable activities. This is not in line with the CFP which clearly states that the maximum sustainable yield exploitation rate shall be achieved on a progressive, incremental basis at the latest by 2020 for all stocks."

In the position paper sent to the ministers, EAPO highlights a number of key concerns based on the Commission's TACs and quotas proposals, including the additional work to be done by the ministers to determine quota uplifts for the first demersal species affected by the landing obligation. Despite the admittance that the state of the stocks in the North East Atlantic is generally improving, the scientific models appear to be constantly changing on the basis of stricter instructions from the European Commission

For each of the 25 stocks addressed in the position paper EAPO puts forward well founded specific recommendations for realistic solutions, which by no means deviate from scientific advice but are much more in line with the CFP three pillar sustainability objectives.

===== Ends =====

A copy of the position paper can be found on www.eapo.com or requested via info@eapo.com.

EAPO represents 40 Producers Organisations from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.6 million tonnes of landings and a first sale value of € 3 billion.

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