



EP(20)31/EAPO20-16

**Goran Štefanić**  
**Chairman of the Permanent**  
**Representatives Committee**  
**AGRIFISH Council of the EU**

Brussels, 17 April 2020

**Re: Fisheries Control System revision**

Dear Mr Štefanić,

The EU fishing industry is entering a period that is both crucial and decisive for the future of the sector due to the unprecedented crisis caused by the coronavirus infection COVID-19 and to the uncertainty created by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. In this regard, we would like, through this letter, to draw your attention to the handling of the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation by the Council of the EU.

First, Europêche and EAPO would like to recall their commitment to an effective control policy, which guarantees the proper implementation of EU legislation and the achievement of the common objectives of the CFP. In this context, given the technical nature and the importance of the EU's control policy as one of the main pillars of the CFP, due attention and consideration should be given by EU policy-makers to that end.

The industry is of the opinion that the extremely tight schedule, currently being considered by the Council of the EU, will not allow for the adequate discussion between parties and for the development of a Regulation in line with the realities on the ground and with the objectives of the CFP. The situation is further complicated by the limitation of meeting logistics stemmed from the Covid-19 restrictions which only permit a consultation process by written procedure.

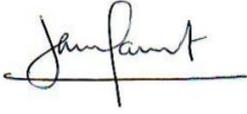
We consider that the highest priority should be given by governments to overcome the difficulties originated from the Covid-19 crisis. Fishing professionals now need strong support from European and national authorities on these pressing matters.

For all these reasons, all efforts must focus on the crisis at hand, and we therefore call for temporarily pausing the current legislative and regulatory process on the revision of the fisheries control system until at least the lifting of emergency measures by all EU governments.

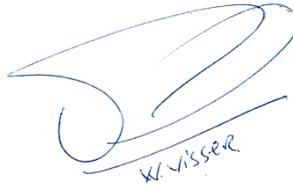
Furthermore, and in view of the current developments, it seems only logical to aim at extending the Brexit transition period with another 12 months at least, although we are fully aware that this would require the UK to agree with such decision.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Garat', with a horizontal line underneath.

Javier Garat  
President of Europêche

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Visser', with a horizontal line underneath.

Pim Visser  
President of EAPO

*Cc : Mr Pierre Karleskind (European Parliament, Committee on Fisheries)  
Ms Clara Aguilera (European Parliament, rapporteur)*