

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



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Ms Charlina VITCHEVA  
Director-General  
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
European Commission 1049 BRUSSELS  
Belgium

EAPO21-04

Oostende, 11 January 2021

Dear Ms. Vitcheva,

**Subject: EAPO's participation in coastal States negotiations with the UK**

Brexit is bringing-in a number of changes to the EU's fisheries and it will take some efforts to adapt quickly to all of them in a short period of time. For about 119 fish stocks that are shared with the UK, the setting of the TAC and quotas for 2021 will take place in a radically new way, through negotiations between the EU and the UK in the next weeks. This is a completely different setting from the usual decision-making process during the December Council.

EAPO and its members have for a long time been active participants in the preparation of fishery management negotiations, specifically TACs & Quotas, including the ones with third countries. Given the new process that will take place this year, EAPO kindly asks the Commission to retain such participation and to involve the fisheries representatives both before and during the (critical) negotiations. The fisheries sector will be highly affected by the changed procedure and it is important to be kept informed. EAPO and its members also have always been instrumental in providing comments and inputs in a timely manner to the Member States administrations and more generally to the EU's position.

Therefore, we hope that the Commission shares our view and agrees to keep us informed of the latest developments in all negotiations.

We are convinced that fruitful cooperation on that matter will provide an optimum result for all parties involved and thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Pim Visser,

President of EAPO