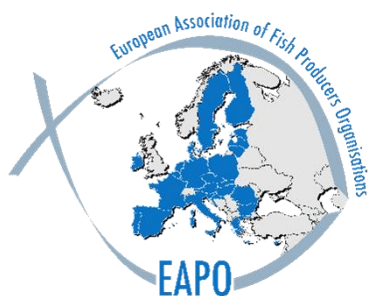


European Association of Fish Producers Organisations

Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche



EAPO / AEOP

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Mr. Frans TIMMERMANS

Vice-President
European Commission
1049 BRUSSELS
Belgium

EAPO22-53

Oostende, 6 October 2022

Dear Mr. Vice President,

**Subject: EAPO meeting request on The Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources
and Protect Marine Ecosystems**

I am contacting you on behalf of the European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO). We were founded in 1980 and represent 28 POs from 9 EU Member States, with approximately 16.000 vessels, 2.4 million tonnes of landings and € 3 billion first sale value.

We have been informed that the Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources and Protect Marine Ecosystems would be published soon and several key issues relevant for the European fishing community are at stake. They cover: avoidance of unwanted catches, sustainable use of bottom contacting fishing gear and determination of adequate objectives for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

In view of the preparation for the publication and the implementation of the Action Plan, we hope that a meeting with you and your services can be organized as soon as your schedule allows it.

Moreover, after its publication, we remain at your disposal to ensure that the implementation of the Action Plan is done in the environment's interest as well as the fishers'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ESBEN SVDRUP-JENSEN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
President