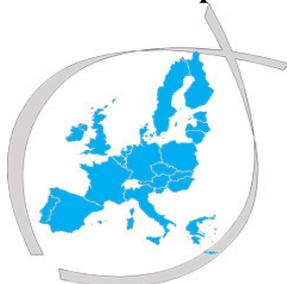


**European Association of Fish Producers Organisations**  
**Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche**



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**Brussels, 15 July 2010**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**PRODUCTIVE EAPO MEETING WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER**  
**DAMANAKI ON KEY FISHING SECTOR ISSUES**

On 14 July a delegation of the European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) had a productive meeting with European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Ms Maria Damanaki in Brussels on a number of key fishing sector issues.

The EAPO delegation consisting of Sean O'Donoghue (President), Niels Wichmann (Treasurer) and Emiel Brouckaert (Secretary-General) concentrated on four key issues of major concern to its members: the reform of both the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Common Organisation of the Market (COM), the enormous increase in Icelandic catches of mackerel and the unworkable cod effort rules.

Sean O'Donoghue said afterwards: "In respect of the reforms we found a common ground with the Commissioner on governance, the core role for the Producer Organisations and on the requirement for a level playing field as a basis for the external fisheries policy. I am pleased also that she fully agreed with the EAPO's position on the unjustified and irresponsible behaviour of Iceland in its 31 fold increase in mackerel landings and is committed to achieving the correct outcome in conjunction with her fellow Commissioners." He added "we made some progress in highlighting the problems with the cod recovery plans and in particular the unworkable rules regarding effort without getting firm commitments for immediate change. Instead the Commissioner indicated that these issues should be best dealt with in the review scheduled for next year".

The EAPO delegation also discussed the discards issue, improved scientific advice, the need for funding to underpin the reforms process and that it hoped to be in a position shortly to submit detailed proposals for the reform of the COM.

Finally the EAPO delegation commented: "All in all we found the meeting with Commissioner Damanaki was positive and productive. We do expect that some of our key concerns will be taken on board and acted on by the Commissioner."

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

The EAPO represents Producers Organisations from 11 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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