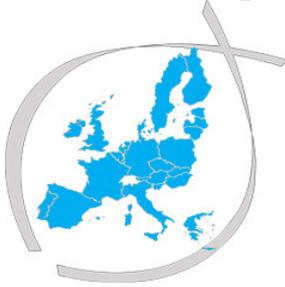


**European Association of Fish Producers Organisations**  
**Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche**



**EAPO / AEOP**  
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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**Attn: Commissioner Maria DAMANAKI**  
**DG MARE**  
**1049 BRUSSEL**

EAPO10/11

RE: Proposal for a Meeting

Oostende, 26 April 2010

Dear Commissioner,

As this is our first contact since your nomination as Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the European Association of Producers Organisations wishes to congratulate you on your appointment and express the hope for a fruitful cooperation.

EAPO currently represents approximately 10,000 vessels landing approximately 3.5 million tonnes with a value at first sale of approximately 3 billion euro and this through the membership of PO's from 10 Member States. We are a member of the Advisory Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The reform of the Common Organisation of the Market has been a main topic for our organisation for the last six years. We have made it very clear on numerous occasions over the last number of years that the delay in amending this regulation to coincide with the reform of the CFP is a matter of major concern to our members. Since last year we have also spend a lot of time on a contribution to the reform of the Common Fishery Policy and put forward an EAPO position paper at the end of last year in response to the Commission's green paper.

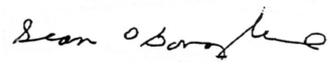
Another key issue for EAPO is the inadequacy of the scientific advice for certain species and need for significantly improved data collection. EAPO consider that the key to unlocking this dearth of scientific information is to find a way to incorporate the fishers knowledge into the assessments.

The topics mentioned above and other EAPO views on how to achieve a European sustainable fisheries sector both from a resource and socio-economic standpoints are issues we would very much welcome discussing with you at your earliest convenience.

EAPO is available at short notice for such a meeting and we would be most grateful if you could confirm a date in the near future for the EAPO Bureau consisting of four members to meet you in Brussels.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Donoghue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Sean O'Donoghue  
President