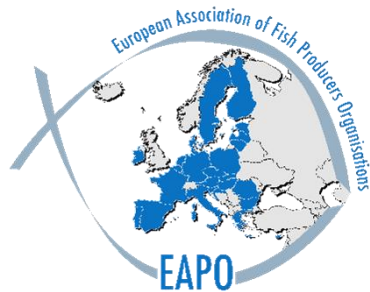


European Association of Fish Producers Organisations

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



EAPO / AEOP

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Letter by e-mail attachment to:

- EP PECH Committee Secretariat
- Members of the European Parliament

CC:

- **Ms Maja KIRCHNER:** DG MARE – Unit C1 (Maja.Kirchner@ec.europa.eu)
- EU Council Secretariat

EAPO24-33

EU Transparency Register number: 46491656228-65

Oostende, 15 January 2024

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

I am contacting you on behalf of the European Association of fish Producer Organisation, representing 31 Producer Organisations from 12 European Member States. On the 6th of December 2023, the Commission published its Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973 and (EU) 2019/472 as regards the targets for fixing fishing opportunities.

The Commission proposal suggests deleting articles 4.6 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, Regulation (EU) 2018/973 and article 4.7 of Regulation (EU) 2019/472. This article reads as follow "Fishing opportunities shall in any event be fixed in such a way as to ensure that there is less than a 5 % probability of the spawning stock biomass falling below the limit spawning stock biomass reference point (Blim)" referred to as the 5% rule.

EAPO members welcome the Commission's proposal to delete these articles from the MAPs given that safeguards provided in article 5 will work sufficiently to guarantee sustainable fishing and that enforcing article 5 and the 5% rule can lead to inconsistencies and severe socio-economic implications.

The Council has taken up the Commission's proposal and has requested that the European Parliament Plenary vote on the use of the urgent procedure. Considering this, EAPO would strongly recommend voting in favor of the Council's request to ensure a swift adoption of the Commission proposal. This in turn would secure simplification of existing complex legislation and consistency inside an already complex, highly monitored and effective fisheries management system. It would further ensure that quotas would not be set below the objective of the CFP – to fish in line with the principle of maximum sustainable yield. It would thus strengthen the Community's production of low carbon footprint food resources.

In conclusion, EAPO members support the Commission's proposal to remove the 5% rule from the Regulations, as we believe it would streamline fisheries management and minimize potential socio-economic issues. We kindly request the European Parliament to consider the Council's request for an urgent procedure to facilitate the prompt adoption of this proposal. Additionally, we recommend maintaining the simplicity of the legislation by refraining from introducing additional provisions.

Your thoughtful consideration of these suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Esben Sverdrup-Jensen', written in a cursive style.

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen

President of the European Association of fish Producer Organisations