

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



**EAPO / AEOP**  
**H. Baelskaai 20 – 8400 OOSTENDE (Belgium)**  
**Tel: +32 59 43 20 05**  
**e-mail: [info@eapo.com](mailto:info@eapo.com)**  
**website: [www.eapo.com](http://www.eapo.com)**

Mr. Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS  
European Commissioner  
Environment, Oceans & Fisheries  
European Commission  
1049 BRUSSELS

EAPO19-26

Ostend, 29 November 2019

Dear Mr. Sinkevičius,

**Subject: Your appointment as Commissioner for Environment, Oceans & Fisheries**

On behalf of the European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) we wish to congratulate you on your appointment as European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, following your nomination and successful interview by the European Parliament in October. We are particularly pleased about the recent agreement President Ursula von der Leyen made to add 'Fisheries' to the name of your portfolio.

EAPO represents 38 POs from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.5 million tonnes of landings and € 3 billion first sale value. EAPO was founded in 1980 and its headquarters are located in Ostend at the Belgian seaside. As an association of European recognised producers organisations, we offer our members support on multiple topics. EAPO assists its members in fulfilling their roles as cornerstones to achieve the objectives of the Common Fishery Policy (CFP) and the Common Market Organisation for Fishery and Aquaculture Products in their respective areas. Therefore Production and Marketing Plans are of great significance and EAPO provides its members with useful advice on the management of their Production and Marketing Plans.

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EAPO also aims to improve the relationship between European POs by looking for common grounds in addressing the challenges for the European fisheries, such as targeting a sustainable production through socio-economic viability with respect for the environment.

Throughout the years, EAPO has been able to cooperate successfully with the relevant authorities in the Member States, the Fisheries Ministers Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission. As a European representative body for the seafood sector, EAPO would like to express its hope for an equally fruitful cooperation with these entities.

Please note that we remain available to discuss the topics mentioned above and other EAPO views on how to achieve a European sustainable fisheries and seafood sector whenever you deem useful and we would very much welcome an opportunity to meet you in Brussels at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to a good cooperation on topics in your portfolio as European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries and remain at your disposal to provide relevant information on these items on behalf of the members of EAPO.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'P' followed by 'V' and 'S' and ending in a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name 'P. VISSEER' is written in a smaller, simpler font.

Pim Visser,  
President