

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



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PRESS RELEASE

EAPO FOCUS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2019

EAPO President: “*The European fishing industry finds itself at a critical turning point*”

The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations has reviewed the outcome of its annual General Meeting in Skagen, Denmark, on 27 June 2019 and agreed a work plan for the 2nd half of 2019. The presentation on governance challenges for the European seafood industry by a guest speaker at the AGM contributed substantially to this outcome.

President Pim Visser proposed to the EAPO Executive Committee a number of short-term action points for the European fishing industry. Aspects put forward are the economic, social and environmental objectives of the current and future Common Fisheries Policies, including the impact of Climate Change and the implementation of the Single Use Plastics Directive. Besides all these challenges there is the Brexit elephant in the room creating difficulties for many parts of the EU fishing industry to plan ahead. Hence the EAPO President’s statement that the European fishing industry finds itself at a critical turning point.

Pim Visser also said: “*There is a huge responsibility for the new European Parliament – particularly the members of the Fisheries Committee – and for the Directorates General of the European Commission acting on fisheries aspects. A well-structured representation of the fishing industry must be available to provide grass root expert input from the sector so that these important institutions are well informed to make balanced legislative and governance decisions. The recent Commission decision to implement emergency procedures to the Eastern Baltic cod fishery is an example of the lack of awareness of the industry’s capability to assist in solving sustainability problems.*”

The future of EU fisheries representation was an important topic at this year's EAPO AGM, hosted by the two Danish members (Danmarks Fiskeriforening PO and Danmarks Pelagiske PO). Around the meeting the hosts organized a variety of activities which included an early morning visit to seafood related companies in the busy fishing port of Skagen. The EAPO President expressed his gratitude to the hosts for setting the scene for achieving a general awareness under the membership of the need for an ambitious work plan for joint European fisheries representation.

==== Ends ====

EAPO represents 39 Producers Organisations from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.6 million tonnes of landings and a first sale value of € 3 billion.

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