

**European Association of Fish Producers Organisations**

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



**EAPO / AEOP**

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Ms Charlina VITCHEVA  
Director-General  
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
European Commission  
1049 BRUSSELS  
Belgium

EAPO20-27

Oostende, 23 June 2020

Dear Ms. Vitcheva,

**Subject: Your appointment as Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

On behalf of the European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) we wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. EAPO and its members look forward to working with you in the post-COVID-19 recovery and in the key years ahead for the European fishing sector.

Up until 2019, EAPO represented 40 POs from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.5 million tonnes of landings and € 3 billion first sale value. This year most of our UK members have decided to terminate which brings the membership to 30 POs. 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 PMPs.

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.

On many topics that are relevant to the EU fishing industry we are working closely with our colleagues from Europêche and we have been informed that they have invited you to an introductory meeting on June 30th. We would be delighted if you would be willing to also meet EAPO and we therefore suggest to inform our colleagues that an EAPO-delegation is available on the same date.

We look forward to a fruitful cooperation and remain at your disposal to provide relevant information and to discuss EAPO views on how to achieve a European sustainable fisheries and seafood sector whenever you deem useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Visser', with the name 'P. VISSEER' printed in small letters below it.

Pim Visser

President