



VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

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Mr Pim Visser
President
European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)
H. Baelskaai 20
8400 Oostende
BELGIUM

Dear Mr Visser,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June, which sets out EAPO's position on the Farm to Fork Strategy.

I am pleased to hear that EAPO agrees with the broad lines of the strategy and supports its goals and objectives. Let me assure you that my colleagues and I are well aware of the hard and continuous efforts of the EU fishing sector towards more sustainable fisheries. In my view, it is also because of these past and on-going efforts that the Farm to Fork Strategy represents an important opportunity. By creating transparency throughout the supply chain and making stakeholders as well as seafood consumers more aware of sustainability aspects, past and future investments into sustainable practices have a better chance of economically paying off.

A number of initiatives planned under the Farm to Fork Strategy aim at improving the sustainability of the food system. These actions will be subject to stakeholder consultations, and any new legislative initiatives will be underpinned by better regulation principles.

While developing these actions, we will thoroughly take into account the principle of proportionality and the need for a level playing field. We have the intention to take a broad approach to sustainability and we will consider its environmental, social and economic dimensions, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy's guiding principles.

It is a complex endeavor to improve the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture activities and products across several pillars. Therefore, the productive discussions and positive cooperation with EAPO will remain all the more important for my colleagues and me.

Yours sincerely,

Virginijus Sinkevičius