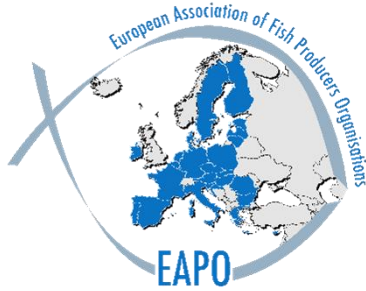


European Association of fish Producers Organisations
Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche



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PRESS RELEASE

EAPO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Energy sovereignty cannot be traded with food sovereignty said
EAPO's newly re-elected President Esben Sverdrup-Jensen.**

The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) recently held its highly anticipated Annual General Meeting (AGM) in The Hague and Amsterdam on 21 and 22 September 2023. The event was hosted by Dutch member-POs.

This year's AGM was organised around the topic of Maritime Spatial Planning. The recently agreed Nature Restoration Law, the Kunming-Montreal Agreement and the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive all put tremendous pressure on maritime space, including key fishing grounds and nursery- and spawning areas for crucial ecosystem elements. *Nederlandse Visserbond* gave a presentation on the dramatic evolution of access to fishing areas from 2000 to 2030. This was followed by a scientific presentation highlighting the physical effects of offshore windfarms in the North Sea.

“The unlawful invasion of Ukraine by Russia has put energy independence and offshore windfarm development on top of the EU agenda.” Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, EAPO President, highlighted, *“Rapid electrification of our power supply comes with a very high price, not only for fisheries and fisheries dependent coastal communities, but also for the productivity of our ecosystems. We need to strike a balance and find ways for co-existence. Otherwise the price for energy sovereignty will be the loss of food sovereignty and our ability to feed our own people.”*

In-depth information about the Association's work over the past year can be found on the [EAPO website](http://www.eapo.com).

During the AGM, members approved the Annual Report for 2022 and the Budget for 2023. EAPO is pleased to announce the results of the Bureau elections. Esben Sverdrup Jensen, (Danish Pelagic PO) was re-elected as President. Yves Foëzon (OP Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne)

will continue his role as Treasurer and Irene Prieto (OPPF-4 Vigo) has been appointed as Secretary. The Belgian PO Rederscentrale continues as Secretariat, with Emiel Brouckaert as Secretary-General and fourth member of the Bureau. The EAPO Executive Committee consists of the Bureau members, the Working Group Chairs and other members annually elected by the General Assembly.

"I am grateful for the continued trust placed in me by my fellow members. My previous term underscored the vital role of Producers Organisations as a bridge between the EU-institutions, national fisheries authorities and the approximately 3.700 vessel owners represented by EAPO." Esben Sverdrup-Jensen stated, "The aim of this term is to build on the very strong position of EU POs to both clear and create the legislative and structural path for accelerating the green transition in fisheries. Although we already produce some of the healthiest and most climate friendly proteins available, the potentials in decarbonization and emission free fishing are massive. I cannot wait to get started."

===== **Ends** =====

Information not for publication

The European Association of fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) represents 29 Producers Organisations (POs) from 9 EU Member States with approximately 3,700 vessels, 2 million tonnes of landings and € 2.1 billion first sale value.

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