



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 11 May 2012**

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**PECHE 161**

**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat

to: Council

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Subject: Salzburg Conference on Aquaculture

The future role of freshwater Aquaculture in the Common Fisheries Policy

- Joint Statement by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain
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Delegations will find annexed the above joint statement as a background document to the agenda point on "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14 - 15 May 2012.

**Joint Statement by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, on the future role of freshwater Aquaculture in the Common Fisheries Policy**

FOLLOWING the Joint Declaration of the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Luxemburg and Slovakia about the future of aquaculture and inland fisheries in the CFP Reform of February 2011 and the Joint Declaration of Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain on enhanced support for aquaculture enterprises from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of March 2012 and the Salzburg Conference on the future role of freshwater Aquaculture in the Common Fisheries Policy;

REFERRING to the Commission's Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture<sup>1</sup> adopted in 2009 which noted the need for the creation and promotion of a level-playing field for aquaculture as the basis for its sustainable development;

STATING that the Common Fisheries Policy contributes to achieving the objectives as laid down in the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth<sup>2</sup>;

RECALLING that the present reform process aims to further ensure that European aquaculture becomes more vital and competitive, providing a fair standard of living for the sector and fair prices for the consumers, creating stable markets and a level playing field concerning imports from third countries and paying full regard, where relevant, to animal health, animal welfare, food and feed safety;

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2009)162final.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2010) 2020final

AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ITALY, IRELAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBURG, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA and SPAIN,

COMMIT to the enhanced role for aquaculture in the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy;

UNDERLINE the importance of a prosperous aquaculture in the Union that can provide long-term sustainability in ecologic, economic and social terms and contribute to the availability of food supplies and the recovery of fish stocks;

POINT OUT the fact that aquaculture activities play in particular a vital role for the economy, employment and the quality of life in rural areas offering a tool for diversification, development and economic activities;

DECLARE that aquaculture activities should consequently be encouraged and promoted in the Union in particular to be innovative and sustainable in ecologic and economic terms;

STRESS the importance of sufficient support in the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in order to safeguard investments and funding in existing and future aquaculture facilities to enable continuity, sustainability, competitiveness, growth and development of the sector and to strengthen aquaculture research;

CALL ON the Commission to ensure that simplification and proportionality are guiding principles of all proposals and actions in the reform package while avoiding any increased costs in administration and reporting;

CONFIRM the importance of the mechanisms to exchange among Member States information and best practices and through an open method of coordination of national measures and the involvement of stakeholders in consultation procedures;

SUPPORT fair treatment for aquaculture operators in relation to access to waters and space and the principles of good governance.