

Subject: EFTP meeting with Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Ms. Maria Damanaki.

Place: Brussels, European Commission

Date: 15/03/2011

- **Executive Summary**

In the afternoon of 15th of March, a delegation of EFTPs' (European Fisheries Technology Platform) Board of Directors met with the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Ms. Maria Damanaki. The aim of the meeting was to make the EFTP available for the Commissioner and for DG Mare and to show the progress achieved in this organization. **(EFTP presentation made, enclosed)**

- **Members of the EFTP attending the meeting:**

PERSON	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	ACTIVITY
den Hartog, Paula	PRODUCTSCHAP VIS, NL	Netherlands	Industry
Edvardsen, Torgeir	SINTEF	Norway	Academy
Evin, Gerard	Cooperation Maritime	France	Industry
Garat, Javier	CEPESCA	Spain	Industry
Hedløy Engh, Christian	MUSTAD LONGLINE AS	Norway	Industry
Rodriguez, Maribel	Ariema Energía y Medioambiente S.L.	Spain	EFTP Secretariat
Uriarte, Adolfo	AZTI – TECNALIA	Spain	Academy

The Commissioner received with pleasure the above mentioned presentation and welcomed the EFTPs initiative and its aims and intentions.

The key points of the EFTP which she more positively remarked were the following:

1. It will promote the joint effective cooperation within the sector.
2. Impressive participation.
3. Science-Industry-Administration union.
4. Medium and long term - Vision.
5. Search the sustainability of the fishing activity and fisheries.
6. Consultative committee towards the Commission.

She concluded that the EFTP can help to improve the image of the fishing towards the consumer, increasing the amount of emaciated product, and on the other hand, convincing the sector about the urgent need of a sustainable and environmentally friendly fisheries.

After this, a brief assessment of our proposal was made (very meticulous but positive) and after that she explained the principal working lines of her team.

To summarize, the new Commissioner's team priorities are:

1. CFP reform.
2. To avoid overlapping in the financing and data collection.
3. Sustainability of the resources (including management).
4. Selectivity of fishing gears. Repeatedly emphasized the "GREEN INNOVATION".
5. To establish the connections between industry and market.
6. Transfer of scientific results towards the industry.
7. Awareness campaigns focusing the European consumers about the advantages of eating fish from our fleets; organization of events which show a sector reconciled with scientific advice, etc.
8. But the big issue is discards. In addition to the ongoing pilot cases, she welcomed the possibility of conducting a study to quantify the cost that would have the different fleets if they renounce to this practice, in order to find incentive mechanism (generous, repeated) to offset those losses.

In each of the points she repeatedly emphasized the words GREEN INNOVATION, which seems to be the flag of this new team.

About the feared reduction of funds, she said that she expected keeping the DG-Mare budgets, but she will require collecting all the "lost value" of research and innovation up-to-date.

Next steps:

1. On one hand we were asked to compile all existing information about ongoing discards projects at European level to be sent full filing [this questionnaire](#) by 15th April.
2. On the other hand, we were asked to prepare a preliminary document identifying the technology priorities of the sector at European level. We have prepared an on line methodology to collect your opinions. That you can find in [the following link](#). Please send your contributions before 25th April.

Note: It should be pointed that this first document will be a preliminary approach about the fisheries RDTI demand and priorities. The complete and more in detail work about it will be done to be included at the EFTP Research Agenda.

Work Planning

March						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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April						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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26	27	28	29	30		

IMPORTANT DATES

15 of April: Deadline to send the Discards projects information to the EFTP secretariat. By 25 April the secretariat will send a compilation of Discards project information to the EFTP Board members.

25 of April: Deadline to send the RTDI priorities information to the EFTP secretariat. By 1 May the secretariat will send a resultant document that reflects the EFTP priorities of the members to the Board.

2 of May (12:00 A.M.): EFTP Board of Directors Meeting in Brussels, to show the RTDI discard project database.