

**European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)
(Northern Pelagic Working Group)**



Norwegian Fishermen's Association



Norwegian Seafood Federation



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Press release

EU and Norwegian mackerel industry meet Commissioner Damanaki prior to London talks on mackerel management

On 27 August Commissioner Maria Damanaki received representatives of the EU and Norwegian fishing industry to discuss the management of the North East Atlantic mackerel stock. The industry had asked for the meeting in the light of the upcoming meeting in London on 3 September where Commissioner Damanaki will meet her colleagues from the other Coastal States in an attempt to find a solution for the current mackerel stalemate.

The industry informed the Commissioner on the results of the 2 international scientific surveys carried out earlier this year, which confirmed the general increase in the size of the mackerel stock, which the mackerel fishermen also had seen on the fishing grounds, and a reduced abundance of mackerel in the Icelandic waters.

The industry furthermore outlined the 11 principles on which an agreement on the management of the mackerel stock must be based:

1. Fresh start of the negotiations (earlier offers made by EU and/or Norway are not valid anymore)
2. No reward for bad behaviour
3. The demands by Iceland and Faroe Islands are unjustified
4. Zero access for Iceland in EU and Norwegian waters
5. Time is working against Iceland
6. Sharing agreement between all parties – no partial agreement
7. New arrangement must be made for a limited period
8. Direct application of sanction measures by the EU and Norway
9. EU-accession talks with Iceland must be adjourned

10. Blue whiting sharing arrangement must be revised

11. Greenland must not be granted Coastal State status nor be part of a future sharing arrangement

The EU and Norwegian industry consider that the meeting was positive and constructive and emphasised to Commissioner Damanaki to use all the leverage available to her to come to a fair sharing arrangement with all relevant parties. Should such a fair agreement not be possible then the industry was unanimous in its view, 'better no deal than a bad deal'.

Contact:

<i>Gerard van Balsfoort:</i>	<i>T +31 651 411 431</i>	<i>E gbalsfoort@pelagicfish.eu</i>
<i>Ian Gatt:</i>	<i>T +44 7803 041 021</i>	<i>E ian.gatt@scottishpelagic.co.uk</i>
<i>Audun Maråk:</i>	<i>T +47 900 77 470</i>	<i>E audun@fiskebat.no</i>
<i>Otto James-Olsen:</i>	<i>T +47 91 33 82 84</i>	<i>E otto.james-olsen@fhl.no</i>
<i>Sean O'Donoghue:</i>	<i>T +353 87 419 6535</i>	<i>E kfo@kfo.ie</i>
<i>Christian Olesen:</i>	<i>T +45 98 94 29 23</i>	<i>E po@pelagisk.dk</i>



From L to R: Ian Gatt, Sean O'Donoghue, Commissioner Damanaki, Audun Maråk, Christian Olesen