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- Press Release -

Revision of EU ATQ Regulation: insufficient access to raw material will put EU jobs and economic growth at stake

The revision of EU regulation 1220/2012 on trade related measures - autonomous tariff quotas (ATQ) - **to guarantee the supply of raw material to Union processors** is underway. EU fish processors (AIPCE-CEP¹) recall that within EU consumption the reliance on imported fish has stayed 63-65% every year across the market and for certain key species and sectors this reliance is often above 90% (*AIPCE-CEP Finfish Study 2014*).

As set out in the Finfish Study, AIPCE-CEP wants to see **more fish processed into consumer products within the EU**. Unfortunately EU fishermen cannot fully supply what the industry needs.

To assist the Commission in the preparation of proposals, AIPCE-CEP has submitted an evidence-based case drawing on past and current trends, as well as an assessment of future trade at both EU and global levels.

In summary, EU fish processors' views of the requirements for a properly functioning ATQ Regulation are as follows:

- We accept the **need to review the regulation** but on the basis of our analysis we do not see any need to change the principles embodied in it.
- We expect that the process of review will **allow modifications** to ATQ levels that **reflect** important changes in the **dynamics of the EU and global fish supply and markets**.
- We expect that new items and processes may be introduced where a **proper justification** can be provided that allows for **growth and employment**.
- We encourage the Commission and member states to **apply** the principle of **automatic increases when needed** according to the principle on necessary flexibility (Article 3 of Regulation 1220/2012).

“The important role of access to competitive raw material for the EU fish processing should not be underestimated – highlights G. Pastoor, AIPCE President. For instance, the autonomous tariff quota of tuna loins which is exhausted each year the very first days is causing serious availability concerns. We must prevent the relocation of processing activities outside the EU, he insists, as insufficient autonomous tariff quotas - and remember, it is about raw material, not finished products - will endanger EU jobs and ultimately restrict availability, choice and value for consumers.”

“However – as G. Pastoor adds - a properly invested and viable EU processing industry can fully support EU fishermen provided it has access to, and can compete globally for, the additional raw materials needed to supplement EU supplies and maintain throughput and market share. If the processing industry is too small and limited in its supply then it cannot afford to invest thereby reducing the opportunity for EU caught fish as well.”

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ⁱ AIPCE-CEP represents 100.000 employees, 3.500 enterprises and a production value of around €29 billion
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