

# DECLARATION & RESOLUTION

3rd International Carp Conference  
3-4. September 2015. Vodnany, Czech Republic

## 1. Background

It has been confirmed by previous Carp Conferences and other European or national events focused on fish farming, that freshwater pond aquaculture is an underexplored opportunity that has a strong historical background, providing growth and employment in inland areas of Europe. Freshwater pond aquaculture is a major contributor to the livelihood of rural communities in many inland regions and to the conservation and enhancement of valuable aquatic habitats and also to social and cultural values of Europe.

Exploitation of the already recognised opportunities however is slow, production is still stagnating. The use of conventional technologies and systems, and consequently, the sale of conventional products (such as live fish) is still dominant in the sector.

There is no doubt, that the predation of wild animals and often incoherent and unreasonably restrictive legislation and other external factors, can also be mentioned as constraints of development. Such factors include climate changes, heavy discrimination of fish producers compared with the other agricultural farmers, the low impetus of innovation, the inefficient collaboration among farmers and between science and practice.

National and local authorities often misinterpret and misuse EU legislation and directives in their implementation, causing extra burden on the pond aquaculture sector.

Taking into account the above, practical measures and actions are required as summarized in the followings.

## 2. Proposed practical measures and actions

- Improve cooperation and collaboration between Producers Associations in Central and Eastern Europe that represent freshwater pond aquaculture sector:
  - Exchange of best practices
  - Improved European and national governance
  - More efficient, coherent and scientifically based use of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
  
- Strengthen cooperation with international organisations and represent the freshwater pond aquaculture sector more efficiently on European level
  - FEAP<sup>1</sup> (Freshwater Fish Commission)
  - AAC<sup>2</sup> (Will start work in 2016)
  - EATiP<sup>3</sup> (Consider the establishment of a Central and Eastern European ATiP through HUNATiP<sup>4</sup> and NACEE<sup>5</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> Federation of European Aquaculture Producers

<sup>2</sup> Aquaculture Advisory Commission

<sup>3</sup> European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform

- NACEE (improve the collaboration with non-EU countries, where freshwater fish production is important in aquaculture)
  - Strengthen involvement in global aquaculture development programs (e.g. FAO programs) taking into account that freshwater pond aquaculture is a major element of global aquaculture production, with special focus on EU-Asia aquaculture cooperation programs.
  - Intensify innovation with special regard to the development of systems and technologies towards sustainable intensification and responding to external threats such as predation of wild animals and climate change
    - Access to Research Infrastructure
    - Establishment of pilot facilities
  - Focus on added value product development (quality and diversity) in order to improve the image of common carp that remains a major species in freshwater pond aquaculture
  - Elaborate methods for evaluating the value of ecosystem services of freshwater fish ponds, since non-production function of fish ponds will continue to be an important feature of this sector. Improve communication with environmental NGO's for better understanding of the ecosystem services of fish ponds.
  - Investigate and explore new funding opportunities (exchange of results and experiences with other European aquaculture sectors)
- 3. A Questionnaire related to the freshwater pond aquaculture components of the EATiP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) has been prepared and distributed to the relevant participants of the conference. A brief summary shall be prepared to amend this declaration.**

## **RESOLUTION**

The participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Carp Conference in Vodnany unanimously agree to the following:

**Based on 15 years of practical experience, the threat of the KHV disease became irrelevant; therefore it should be categorized on the lowest level (category 5.) of notifiable diseases.**

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<sup>4</sup> Hungarian Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform

<sup>5</sup> Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central and Eastern Europe