

PRESS RELEASE – AQUACULTURE in MOTION 2015

Liège, 19/11/2015

'AQUACULTURE IN MOTION', the fourth edition of FEAP's annual European aquaculture event, was held in the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 16th November 2015

'Integrating Aquaculture' was the theme of this year's 'Aquaculture in Motion' looking at how the activity is integrated within different aspects of food supply and society. Focus was given to the role of aquaculture in food security, how its products are integrated within the seafood market, and how aquaculture integrates into the environment and within society. Over 90 participants from 16 different European countries attended this important event. 'Aquaculture in Motion' and was co-organised by the FEAP with FEFAC, the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation and was supported by the Committee of the Regions.

The meeting was opened by Jesús Gamallo Aller, the Director-General for external relations and relations with the European Union, Region of Galicia, the FEAP President, Arnault Chaperon and Alexander Döring, General Secretary of FEFAC. Ernesto Peñas Lado, Director in DG Mare, made a keynote introduction, highlighting the position and contributions of aquaculture in food security and covering different policy contributions, notably that €1.2 billion has been earmarked for supporting the development of sustainable European aquaculture.

The first session addressed the integration of aquaculture products in the seafood market, covering four different topics. The health aspects of seafood were explained by NIFES' research director Livar Frøyland, followed by a review on consumer habits related to aquaculture products by Kristof Werbrouck from Marine Harvest Consumer Products. Anna Pyć, a Polish trout farmer and FEAP representative, talked about how to include aquaculture products into children's' eating habits, putting into practice the Schools Project of European Commission's 'Farmed in the EU' initiative. Finally, Jamie Smith from the Scottish Salmon Producers Association covered the economical importance of aquaculture in Europe with many positive references for coastal and rural areas.

The second session handled the integration of aquaculture activities within the environment. László Váradi from the Hungarian Aquaculture Association showed how pond farming contributes to the preservation of biodiversity and better water management, providing ecosystem services while achieving the goals of Natura2000 and the Water Framework Directive. Vedran Nikolic from DG Environment talked about how aquaculture and Natura2000 can go together while his colleague from DG Mare, Eoin MacAoidh, provided complementary information on the status on the multiannual plans on aquaculture development provided by the Member States. The session was completed by a report by Nicolas Martin of FEFAC on the work on the environmental footprint of both aquaculture feeds and processes, initiated by DG ENVI of the Commission.

The third session covered the integration of aquaculture with other activities, such as agriculture, demonstrated nicely with different examples by Stefan Meyer from the Competence Network for Aquaculture (Germany). Gilles van de Walle (FARNET) showed how aquaculture helps in developing local rural and coastal areas, referring to the opportunities presented by Fisheries Local Actions Groups (FLAGs) and Community Led Local Development (CLLD). The last presentation by Jacques Fuchs of DG Research & Innovation highlighted new opportunities for aquaculture research and innovation under Horizon 2020.

Ulrike Rodust, MEP and member of the Fisheries Committee closed the meeting by stressing the needs to support the sector and to allow European aquaculture to live up to its potential. However, with so many highly engaged actors seen at this event, she is convinced that the future of the sector will be bright!

