

# PRESS RELEASE



## Aquaculture in motion 2016

Farmed in Europe

*Brussels, 7th December 2016*

Under the theme 'Farmed in Europe', the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) presented the fifth edition of its annual event 'Aquaculture in motion' on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December in Brussels. More than 75 people attended the conference, co-organised with the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC), which was animated and moderated by Pellegrino Riccardi. Seven panellists made presentations that not only stressed the importance of aquaculture as a contributor to sustainable jobs and economic growth but also highlighted the conditions for assuring long-term development in Europe.

'Aquaculture in Europe is a priority but clear actions are needed to make things happen' said Arnault Chaperon, FEAP Past-President, in his opening remarks, after welcoming the participants to the event. Alexander Döring, Secretary General of FEFAC underlined the role and developments of compound feeds in contributing to improving the efficiency and sustainability of aquaculture.

Felix Leinemann, the new Head of Unit for aquaculture within the Directorate General for Fisheries & Maritime Affairs of the European Commission (DG MARE), underlined in his keynote the role of aquaculture in the Blue Growth Agenda, emphasising its high potential for sustainable jobs and growth.

The second part of the conference focused more on technical considerations and Professor Sachi Kaushik made a review on fish farming processes in Europe demonstrating fish farming to be the most efficient animal production sector - in respect of feeds, protein retention, edible yield and water use.

Marco Gilmozzi, FEAP President and a fish farmer in Ortobello (Italy), gave the views of the farmers on the trends in the European markets for seafood. 'In the Seafood sector, Europe has a problem and we are the solution' he said, stressing that EU aquaculture produces about 1,3 of the 13,8 million tons consumed i.e. less than 10% of the products consumed in Europe. With the increase of the world population foreseen by 2050, aquaculture might well be the answer to responding to rising seafood needs and demands.

Antonio Nuccio from the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA) presented figures from the observatory that provided many details on consumer preferences for seafood and related products, confirming the views of the profession.

Jamie Smith, Technical manager of the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) followed with a presentation on the social and economic role of aquaculture in society. He highlighted the importance of the sector in providing jobs in remote areas, helping to create and reinforce local communities. He also presented the recently published SSPO Community Charter and the wide benefit of engagement. 'Professionalism, Passion, Experience characterise the aquaculture workforce'.

Gilles Doignon, Communication officer within DG MARE, updated the audience on the progress of the 'Farmed in the EU' campaign, supported by the results obtained with the school kits circulated amongst teachers throughout Europe and, more specifically, in Spain. Gilles added that the campaign is 'The chance for European producers & researchers to become ambassadors of EU aquaculture in their community and beyond'.

Actions vs. Strategies – what is needed? was the last focal point of the conference where Arnault Chaperon presented the views of the farmers. He stressed the need for the European Banks to help finance the professional aquaculture sector and for the European Commission to facilitate achieving a 'level playing field'. Gustavo Larrazábal, President of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP) reported the important and essential role of Research and Innovation for the sector. 'We need the EU Commission to fulfil its promise. The EATiP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda has to be the guide for investment in Aquaculture RD&I'.

Before the closure of the conference, the moderator summarised the evidence that more efforts are needed to increase aquaculture growth in Europe. The EU must focus on the sector that can provide the answer to reduce the important trade deficit and maintain the current standards for seafood. The panel discussion was followed by a reception with excellent 'farmed fish' products, providing excellent proof of the content of presentations, discussions and conclusions.

More info & all presentations on <http://feap.info/Default.asp?SHORTCUT=722>