

# **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