

POSITION PAPER

On the proposal for a EUROPEAN COMMISSION COMMUNICATION on a NEW APPROACH FOR A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EU

3 November 2020

Background

To meet the European Green Deal objectives of see the European Commission is setting a vision for a transformation of the Blue Economy under the Green Deal's axes of decarbonisation, zero pollution, circularity and biodiversity. The European Commission's Communication proposal aims to reach its objectives by encouraging sustainable solutions, innovative products and services and emerging sectors with high employment potential and low environmental impact.

The FEAP shares the European Commission's view that the Blue Economy forms an integral part of the European Green Deal and that a new approach is needed to develop such economy in a sustainable way through coordinated management. The FEAP acknowledges the prominent role of aquaculture in the Blue Economy alongside other economic activities.

However, FEAP emphasises that the Blue Economy, besides marine aquaculture, also encompasses economic activities that take place in freshwater, such as fish and brackish water aquaculture.

FEAP's claim

Aquaculture (marine, brackish and freshwater) is part of the solution to meet the objectives in the Green Deal (greenhouse gas emissions, circular economy, biodiversity, and sustainable and resilient food systems).

Arguments

1. The EU self-sufficiency ratio on aquatic products has remained at around 43 % for the last decade and EU's trade deficit on seafood has increased since 2013 and reached a negative peak of more than 20 billion EUR in 2018. Aquaculture can help close the gap.
2. Aquaculture production demonstrates a high ecological efficiency and low environmental impact.