



Press Release

For immediate publication

Brussels
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Subject: The FEAP welcomes the publication of the new Strategic Guidelines for EU aquaculture by the European Commission and approves its focus

The European Commission presented yesterday its revised *Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture*¹. These guidelines take over from the 2013 *Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture* that were considered a reference document because of stating for the first time in an official document the causes underlying the stagnation of the European Union's aquaculture development since the turn of the century.

The new guidelines offer a common vision for the Commission, Member States and stakeholders to develop the aquaculture sector in a way that contributes directly to the European Green Deal and in particular the Farm to Fork Strategy.

The FEAP welcomes the bold and well-focused content of the new Strategic Guidelines and looks forward to their implementation as they are a good platform for further action.

The European Union's aquaculture sector is recognised by the European Commission as having a growing role to play in the European food system. This sector offers healthy food with a climate and environmental footprint well below that of land-based farming. With these guidelines, the European Commission expects to position European Union's aquaculture as the global reference for sustainability and quality, reduce the EU dependence on aquatic food imports and create more jobs, especially in coastal and rural regions.

The FEAP acknowledges that the chapters in the Guidelines reflect the real needs of the sector for growth:

1. Building resilience and competitiveness.
2. Participating in the green transition.
3. Ensuring social acceptance and consumer information.
4. Increasing knowledge and innovation.

The FEAP is pleased to notice that the European Commission, through DG MARE, has understood that besides the importance to continue refining the environmental sustainability of European aquaculture, there is an urgent need to improve the competitiveness of the EU fish farming companies, mainly comprised by small and micro-enterprises. This improved economic performance of the European Union's aquaculture

¹ European Green Deal: Commission adopts strategic guidelines for sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture: <https://bit.ly/2SYrOKr>