

Press Release

For immediate publication

Brussels. June 14th, 2022

Subject: The FEAP held its 2022 Annual General Meeting in Budapest and delivered its Excellence Award

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers held its 54th Annual General Meeting in Budapest on June 10th. The meeting was preceded by an extra day of group meetings and presentations. Preparatory technical meetings of each FEAP commission had taken place online in the previous weeks.

The meeting was chaired by the FEAP President, Ms Lara Barazi-Geroulanou, and welcome words were delivered by Dr. István Németh, president of the Hungarian Aquaculture and Fisheries Interbranch Organization (MA-HAL), and by Mr Péter Lengyel, Fisheries and Aquaculture director of Hungary Ministry of Agriculture. Pre-recorded videos from MEP Mr Gabriel Mato and EU Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans, and Fisheries, Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, were played. Ms Emilia Gargallo, from the Aquaculture Unit of DG MARE, informed about the latest activities carried out by the European Commission affecting aquaculture.



*Ms Lara Barazi-Geroulanou, President of the FEAP,
addressing the General Assembly in Budapest.*

Mr. Árni Mathiesen, Chair of the Global Roundtable on Marine Ingredients in which the FEAP participates, offered an overview of the activities of this relevant working team that is involved in worldwide dialogue and action on fisheries improvements to better and increase the availability of sustainable marine ingredients. FEAP is a full member of the Global Roundtable since February 2022.

The permanent collaboration between the FEAP and the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP) was materialised through the participation of Mr. David Bassett (General Secretary of EATiP). Mr Bassett provided information on EATiP's latest activities and surveyed the views on the current gaps and shortcomings in aquaculture research.

Other decisions adopted by the General Assembly of the FEAP were initiating workstreams supporting young aquaculture professionals following the conclusions of the AquaFarm fair that had taken place in Pordenone (Italy) in May.

Finally, Mr Sigurgeir Bárðarson, from Fisheries Iceland (SFS), was elected as Vice-president of the FEAP.

The next plenary meeting of the FEAP will be its 2022 General Assembly and it will take place in December in Athens (Greece).



Group picture of participants in the 2022 FEAP AGM in Budapest (Hungary).

The FEAP 2022 Award for Excellence in European Aquaculture

Having happily passed the time of online assemblies, the FEAP has recovered its annual delivery of the Award for Excellence in European Aquaculture. This award represents recognition by the FEAP of the exceptional contribution, by an individual, to the development of fish farming in Europe. Nominees are presented by the FEAP member associations and the decision is taken by the previous recipients of the award.

The winner of this year's Award has been a true pioneer of the industry: Ms Nancy Panteleimonitou. She has dedicated over 35 years of her life to the Mediterranean aquaculture sector and was a pioneer in the development of the industry from a scientific as well as a management perspective. Ms Panteleimonitou has been the only female founder of an aquaculture company in the entire sector and the first woman to be CEO of an aquaculture company globally.

Established in 1987, Galaxidi Marine Farm, is the lifework of Ms Nancy Panteleimonitou, who has dedicated her career to producing and exporting top-quality fresh fish to the world. Nancy, a well-respected figure among her peers, her colleagues and the people of the city of Galaxidi (Greece), is considered the first lady of aquaculture. In 1987, the pioneering Norwegian company Marine Farm ASA sought a partner for the production of Mediterranean species, and they understood that she was the best candidate they could hope for. She cofounded Galaxidi Marine Farms together with global industry pioneer Mr Bjørn Myrseth and a team of scientists from the UK. She became the CEO of the new company.

Ms Panteleimonitou and her team were instrumental in developing animal husbandry techniques and commercial hatchery know-how which formed the basis for the growth of many other companies in the industry. Under her leadership, Galaxidi Marine Farms has participated in or led hundreds of research and development programs, pioneering research into genetic selection, reproduction, on-growing animal husbandry techniques, nutrition and the development of new species.

Nancy was also a founding member of the Federation of Greek Maricultures (FGM) and the first representative from Greece to the Medaqua Commission of the FEAP which she helped establish as a forum for sea bass and sea bream farmers. She has served on the boards of FGM as well as the Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organization (HAPO) for many years.

Ms Panteleimonitou's passion and devotion to fish farming, have made Galaxidi Marine Farms an exceptional company. What is perhaps less known about her, principally because of her modesty, is that she has tirelessly and generously been a benefactor to her town of Galaxidi. Her passion for fish farming is matched by her passion for philanthropy, for helping those less fortunate. Her investment in the community was instrumental in reviving the town of Galaxidi and she is the largest employer in the region supporting local schools, hospitals and retirement homes and countless individuals. Apart from her success as a self-made entrepreneur she is above and before all a mother figure to her extended family of colleagues, neighbours and employees.

Ms Nancy Panteleimonitou is a true role model as a leader, an entrepreneur, a pioneer, a woman and a philanthropist. The FEAP is honoured to have delivered the 2022 Award to her.



Delivering of FEAP 2022 Award for Excellence in European Aquaculture: Ms Lara Barazi-Geroulanou, Ms Nancy Panteleimonitou and Mr Bjørn Myrseth.

About the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers is an organisation that represents the European fish farming profession and is based in Brussels. FEAP is composed of 24 national fish farming associations from 23 countries, both EU and non-EU. The combined yearly production of FEAP members surpasses 2,5 million tonnes of nutritious, safe, delicious, and environmentally sustainable fish.