



Press Release

Brussels. September 23rd, 2022. For immediate publication

Subject: The FEAP is concerned with the slow unfolding of compensation aid for fish farmers suffering losses because of the war in Ukraine and rising production costs

“Fish farms cannot stop their activity and wait for the storm to pass”

Production costs in fish farming have massively increased since mid-2021. The aftermath of the covid crisis and the war caused by the unjustifiable Russian invasion of Ukraine have sent input costs skyrocketing. Market sale prices have also increased but to a much lesser degree, and fish consumption has seen a decline in most Member States. The critical cost situation of fish farming is in principle similar to other economic activities, however, a key difference is that fish farms cannot stop their activity and wait for the storm to pass. Fish stocks need to be continuously fed and cared for, so the higher costs have to be coped with in any case. Large and small European fish farming undertakings risk their survival in the coming months. Specific public aid for the aquaculture sector has still today not reached its theoretical beneficiaries.

Fish farming in Europe is a very diverse sector that produces more than fifteen different species through a variety of farming systems, both in fresh and marine waters. A sector comprised mainly of micro and small primary production enterprises, each of which is affected by this crisis with different degrees of intensity.

The common impacts are over-the-scale prices of feed for farmed fish, the unavailability of some feed raw materials like the organic ones, skyrocketing energy prices, overpriced liquid oxygen, transportation costs, and the inflation rate that affects packaging materials, maintenance, and labour.