[illegible] **EBCD, Europêche, EAPO, FEAP** and **AFSCEP** – has today issued a joint call for an **EU Action Plan on Blue Foods** at the European Parliament (Brussels – Belgium). The organisations urged EU policymakers to take decisive action to integrate aquatic foods into Europe's broader food and sustainability strategies.

The [illegible], hosted by the **Chair of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament – Carmen Crespo Díaz**, brought the spotlight on aquatic products – often overlooked in European food policy debates. As a tool often **divisive disruptive, conflict, and geopolitical shifts** are policy concerns when it comes to global food systems, the message is clear: an **EU Action Plan for Blue Foods is not an option – it is a necessity!**

"Blue foods must be at the core of the EU's Ocean Pact and its sustainable food strategy. They are healthy, low-carbon, and essential for the resilience of our coastal regions. This action plan is a timely and serious forward roadmap – we now call on the European Commission to move from vision to action by supporting responsible aquaculture, fair market conditions, and a competitive African coastal fisheries sector. There is no truly ambitious Ocean Pact without a strong commitment to blue food systems" said **Carmen Crespo Díaz**.

Jordan Grant, rapporteur on the opinion **of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)** on the Ocean Pact, underscored that the EESC has supported the call for a Blue Food Action Plan as a vital step to modernise fisheries and aquaculture, secure Europe's food supply and boost the resilience of coastal communities.

The **European Commission (DG MARE** – Pablo Labandeira) was also present to react to the call and to inform on the latest developments in that regard.

Blue foods – which include seafood and farmed fish and seafood – provide essential nutrients such as omega-3s, vitamins, and minerals, while often having a **lower carbon and resource footprint** than many land-based proteins. At the same time, these foods support **millions of jobs in coastal and rural communities**, contributing the vision of European autonomy.

Europe's aquatic food sector faces significant challenges. According to the FAO, Europe is the only continent experiencing a decline in total aquatic production. In addition, EU per capita consumption of wild-caught seafood has reached its lowest level in a decade, according to the EUMOFA market observatory. This despite of the fact that most European citizens are **Omega-3 candidates**. This deficit is partly a result of a drive [illegible]