

PRESS RELEASE: EBCD and the EU Seafood Alliance propose an ambitious EU Action Plan for Blue Foods to Commissioner Kadić

Brussels, 1 December - EBCD and the EU Seafood Alliance (Europêche, EAPC, FEAP and Seafood Europe) met with Costas Kadić, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, to discuss their shared priorities for the future of consumption of EU aquatic food in the EU.

With the **Waste 2040 for Fisheries and Aquaculture** now included in the European Commission's 2026 Work Programme, stakeholders are intensifying their call for an **EU Blue Foods Action Plan** fully integrated into the Vision [\(stakeholders proposal\)](#). The proposal has already received strong backing from several institutions and organisations, including the European Economic and Social Committee, Members of the European Parliament, and multiple Advisory Councils.

Stakeholders stressed that **fisheries and aquaculture must be treated as agriculture is** - as strategic providers of food, directly linked to food systems, food security and food sovereignty. This is the expectation for the upcoming 2040 Vision.

To support this, the group proposed working closely together with Commissioner Kadić's services to **co-develop the Blue Foods Action Plan** through a genuinely bottom-up approach. As a first step, the group highlights the need to establish an **EU Blue Foods Platform**, backed by institutional and financial support to advance sustainability initiatives and foster research, innovation, and sustainable investments.

Participants stressed the importance of **better coordination across the Commission**, noting that Blue Foods intersects with multiple policy areas: the sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, maritime affairs, health, trade and environment. **Avoiding/past fragmentation will be essential** to delivering a coherent and future-proof vision.

The foundational and widely recognised unique value of aquatic foods as **"nature's superfood"** - a reality that must be actively championed and integrated across all relevant policy domains - was reiterated. The exceptional nutrient density, low-carbon footprint, and production in close connection with healthy aquatic ecosystems, underscores why Blue Foods are both a **public health asset** and a **climate solution**, while also sustaining jobs, economic activity and resilience for coastal and rural communities across Europe. They warned that fisheries and aquaculture **must not be left behind** in the simplification and competitiveness revolution the Commission is promoting.

The stakeholder group will continue its outreach, meeting with Commissioners, EU institutions and additional partners to ensure the message is clearly heard: **Europe needs an ambitious Blue Foods Action Plan embedded in the Waste 2040 for Fisheries and Aquaculture**.