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- Press release -

A new phase starts: Fish processors and traders welcome agreement on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy

Today's formal adoption of the legislative texts reforming Europe's Common Fisheries Policy marks a major turning point in putting EU fisheries management on the path to a more sustainable future – conserving and rebuilding a vital renewable food source for the benefit of consumers now and for generations to come.

In a long and difficult negotiation over nearly 3 years, all involved have had to show flexibility and compromise in order to reach agreement. There is still much to be done to turn these decisions into actions and to ensure that they are fairly and properly implemented.

But fundamental changes of policy direction have been achieved in terms of:

- Multiannual management plans based on sound science
- The commitment to set quotas on the basis of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)
- Addressing the practice of discards
- Greater regionalisation of decision making to draw on local knowledge and strengthen stakeholder engagement
- An improved external policy applying EU standards to all fisheries in which European vessels participate
- An agreement on the Common Market Organisation
- New Advisory Councils for Markets and Aquaculture

In making the case for radical reform to what was widely seen as a failed policy, AIPCE-CEP¹ worked closely in an Industry Alliance with WWF, retailers and other concerned stakeholders.

Commenting on the final outcome, Guus Pastoor, President of AIPCE, said "Members of AIPCE-CEP have long recognised that **environmental sustainability** is the only way of **securing the economic and social value which well-managed fisheries can provide for all** Europe now has the opportunity to put in place the necessary measures to deliver this".

AIPCE-CEP CFP reform Working Group Chair Andrew Kuyk added: "We are **committed to responsible sourcing and processing policies** and in the **reformed CFP** now have the means **to improve the consumer trust** on which the whole industry depends. We welcome today's culmination of the negotiating process and **will work** with everyone concerned **to ensure successful implementation.**"

- END -

¹ AIPCE-CEP represents fish processing and trading national associations in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, NL, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK (<http://aipce-cep.org/>).