



Brussels, 16th December 2014

AIPCE-CEPⁱ statement as regards implementation of new labeling requirements under Regulation 1169/2011

As of 13th December 2014, some of the new labeling provisions under Regulation 1169/2011 and all new labeling requirements applying to fishery products under Regulation 1379/2013 entered into force.

EU fish processors have been adapting their labels and packaging since these Regulations were published, with the aim to be in duly conformity with the new provisions. Nevertheless, in some of these provisions different interpretations have emerged as to how the implementation has to be made.

The European Commission along with Member States has been working intensively over the last months to ensure a harmonized interpretation of the new provisions. Despite these efforts, there are still outstanding issues where clarity is needed, while EU operators are adamant to comply with all the requirements in due time.

In particular, still unclear interpretation of the implementation of the following provisions in Regulation 1169/2011 is of considerable concern for operators:

1. provision in Article 10, Annex III No.6 as regards date of freezing/first freezing,
2. provision in Annex IX No. 5 of Regulation 1169/2011 as regards net quantity declaration.

Against this background, we urge the European Commission, in coordination with Member States, to:

- **Provide legal clarity** on the interpretation of how implementation of these provisions should be made according to Regulation 1169/2011 **as soon as possible**.
- Ensure that a **uniform implementation** is made in all Member States as well as application across the EU of **similar enforcement measures and controls** showing the **same degree of flexibility** to **prevent distortion of competition** in the internal market.

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ⁱ AIPCE-CEP represents the Fish Processing and Trading National Associations from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, NL, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK. This sector accounts for 100.000 employees, 3.500 enterprises and a production value of around €29 billion (<http://www.aipce-cep.org/>).