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- Press Release -

EU Fish processors and traders present first findings of Finfish Study which reinforce the case for an adequate ATQ system

AIPCE-CEP General Assembly 2015
Bergen



At its General Assembly on 25th September in Bergen, the EU Fish Processors and Traders (AIPCE-CEP¹) announces the upcoming publication of the Finfish study and urges EU policy-makers to understand that the competitiveness of our industry relies very much on access to raw material.

During the public session followed by a fruitful debate with the Norwegian industry and authorities – including Trade Minister Vidar Helgesen – AIPCE-CEP presented the highlights of the FinFish Study 2015 (to be published soon). This study has been prepared for more than 2 decades and provides a unique record and commentary of the EU fish processing industry.

Some of the key findings from this year FinFish Study presented at the General Assembly follow:

- **Total market supply is up 1.7% to 14.4 million tonnes**
- **Whitefish dependency unremoved at 89 % for wild capture species**

- **EU catches for whitefish species have increased marginally (+1 %) and quota utilisation has marginally improved as well**
- **Exports expand by 8 %**

After analyzing the Commission proposal on autonomous tariff quotas 2016-2018, members unanimously concluded that this substantially fails to meet market demands. As stated in the official [ATQ report](#) requested by the Commission before making their proposal, the ATQ instrument does not have any detectable negative impacts on the EU production sector. Furthermore, the ATQ regime can be evaluated to be broadly efficient in the creation of value-added at the level of every EUR 1 custom duty foregone generating between EUR 2.5 and EUR 3 value-added by the industry.

“Despite the clear indication from the Finfish Study that dependence on imports remains at the same levels, the initial proposal from the Commission for the next autonomous tariff quotas round is surprisingly not conducive to growth or innovation – stressed G. Pastoor, AIPCE President. A European Commission which puts jobs and growth at the forefront of their policies contradicts itself by restricting the growth in an industry which generates 120.000 direct jobs across 3500 enterprises”

“We hope – insisted P. Bamberger, CEP President – that the European Commission will understand that the autonomous tariff quotas regime is a vital tool for our industry and will be able to adjust their proposal to take on board the necessary changes which will enable this system continue generating added value in the EU”.

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ⁱ AIPCE-CEP represents fish processing and trading national associations from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, NL, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK. The sector accounts for 3.500 enterprises, 120.000 employees and a production value of around €27 billion per year (<http://aipce-cep.org/>).