



Europêche re-elects its management team

-For immediate release-

The Secretary General of the Spanish Fisheries Confederation (Cepesca), Javier Garat, has been re-elected as President of the European Fisheries Association, Europêche. The election was unanimously agreed upon by the members of Europêche during the General Assembly held yesterday in Brussels. The Dutch representative, Gerard van Balsfoort, President of the Pelagic Freezer-Trawlers Association (PFA), and the French delegate, Marc Ghiglia, Chief Executive of the United Fishing-Vessel Owners' Organisation of France (UAPF) have also been re-elected as vice-presidents. Europêche, the foremost trade body representing the fishing industry in Europe, continues relying on the expertise of the managing team to positively contribute and address the many challenges ahead faced by the European fishing sector.

The board of Europêche will remain at the head of the organization for the next two years, which aims to defend the interests of fishermen and fishing-vessel owners before the European institutions.

Throughout the next biennium and as agreed in the Assembly, the business association will keep among its priorities to continue making progress in improving fish stocks, facilitating compliance with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and intensifying collaboration with the scientific community to continue advancing in the application of fisheries management with an ecosystem approach.

Likewise, Europêche will continue to work on the practical application of the discard ban, on the adoption of reasonable quotas based on scientific recommendations and on the best possible way forward for the proposed regulations on multiannual management plans, including the Mediterranean, the revision of the Fisheries Control System and Technical Measures, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The fisheries body will also include among its priorities those related to the external dimension of the CFP, particularly the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with third countries and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

Safeguarding the interests of the European fisheries sector under the current climate of uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the Landing Obligation and Brexit is also a primary objective for Europêche, which will maintain its commitment to fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and to the promotion of good governance of the oceans on an international scale.

According to Javier Garat: *"I am grateful for the trust that the members of Europêche have placed in me and, above all, for the recognition of the work done in recent years in defence of a sustainable fishing activity, both from an environmental and a socio-economic perspective. Fortunately, I have a great team in Europêche led by Daniel Voces, managing director of the organization. The European fishing fleet,"* adds Garat, *"has made in recent years remarkable efforts and investments to comply with the demands of European and international policies to champion progress towards sustainable*

and responsible fisheries. It is essential that Europe and international organizations, especially the RFMOs, jointly push for all fleets to achieve the highest levels of sustainability in all its dimensions."

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