

EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON RESPONSIBLE FOOD BUSINESS AND MARKETING PRACTICES

*A common aspirational path
towards achieving sustainable food systems*

- Annual Report – Check list for EU associations -

When signing the code, one of the commitments of EU associations is to provide “*on an annual basis, a report of their activities in support of this Code, which will be published on an open dedicated website*”.

In order to help EU associations to provide their annual report of activities, this document aims at providing a check list to guide associations.

- **General information**

Name in full + acronym	European Association of Fish Producers Organisations - EAPO
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N° in the transparency register*	46491656228-65
Date of signature of the Code	16 July 2021
Step of the food chain represented (ex: primary production, production, processing, trade, retail, ...)	Primary production
Who do you represent? (e.g. number of members, companies, SMEs)	The European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) represents 30 POs from 12 EU Member States, with approximately 3,700 vessels, 2 million tonnes of landings and € 2.1 billion first sale value. EAPO was founded in 1980. Every Fish PO recognized by its EU member state can apply for membership of the association.

* if available

European Associations pledge to:

- *endorse the aspirational objectives set out in this Code (where applicable)*

YES

- *promote and disseminate this Code with(in) their constituency/ies;*

Prior to signing the Code, the content of the Code and the subsequent commitment was first discussed during a meeting of the EAPO Executive Committee in July 2021. In order to disclose EAPO's pledge to both members and interested parties, the corresponding letter was published on the EAPO-website (EAPO21-29 Pledge EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices). New members organisations of the association are made aware of this Code and the endorsement letter from EAPO is circulated to them. This topic has also been addressed and discussed with EAPO members at numerous occasions such as the EAPO annual General Assemblies and the Members Meetings.

- *encourage their members to align their sustainability actions and/or business practices to the aspirational objectives and targets of the Code and invite them, on a voluntary basis, to adhere to this Code, as appropriate;*

EAPO-members are encouraged to circulate the information regarding the objectives of the Code amongst their individual fishing companies. By doing so, they are provided with the necessary tools to align their sustainability actions to the aspirational objectives and targets of the Code, should they wish to do so.

- *explore the possibility of developing sector-specific tools and resources in support of this Code;*

EAPO's work programme, traditionally presented at the Association's annual General Assembly, clearly reflects the fishing industry's focus on sustainability. More specifically, EAPO is engaged through several initiatives developing sector-specific tools and resources in support of the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices.

For instance, and in line with the objective n° 3 of the CoC - A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050; Reducing net emissions from own operations – the association has been appointed by the European Commission (EC) to take the lead as support group coordinator of the working group on Large-Scale Fisheries (LSF) of the Energy Transition Partnership for EU fisheries and aquaculture (ETP), in order to provide recommendations for a dedicated EU roadmap to be unveiled in 2026.

As industry stakeholder in an EU funded research project on finding realistic, durable, and effective solutions to mitigate bycatch of protected species or undersized fish, we committed to lead practical demonstration work. This project is directly corresponding to the objective n° 2 of the CoC - Prevention and reduction of food loss and waste; Minimising waste and reducing losses in operations and across value chains.

We also participated in shaping the European Ocean Pact and are continuing to fully provide advices as part of our annual work program to develop a comprehensive vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture, in the same vein as the EU vision for agriculture and food.

Moreover, EAPO is a member of the Market Advisory Council (MAC) and thus has contributed to several MAC-advice that address matters relevant for the market of fishery and aquaculture products; topics closely linked to the targets set out in the Code. Finally, EAPO is a member of the EU's Agri-Food Chain Observatory, an initiative to improve transparency in the agri-food supply chain by analysing prices, costs, and the distribution of margins and added value, all while respecting confidentiality and competition rules.

- *continue to engage in dialogue with other food chain/systems actors and EU and international policy-makers to forge (new) relationships, exchange good practices and discuss challenges encountered, learn from each other (studies, projects) and create better mutual understanding, and identify opportunities for collaboration and potential partnership.*

As a representative for the European fishing industry, EAPO is a member of the Market Advisory Council (MAC), one of the advisory entities listed in the Common Fisheries Policy, producing advice to the Commission amongst other related to responsible food business and marketing practices of fisheries and aquaculture products. The MAC brings together representatives of the entire seafood value chain (primary producers, processors, traders, suppliers, retailers, trade unions) and other interest groups (environmental and development NGOs).

In this respect EAPO closely follows the STECF's Expert working group on sustainability indicators for fishery products. Each year, we are also providing suggestions for the work programme of the European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture products (EUMOFA).

In the context of the vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture to ensure the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of the sector, we are calling, together with several European fisheries and aquaculture organisation, for an EU Action Plan for Blue Foods. An event named "Blue Foods for a Sustainable Future: Launching the Call for an EU Action Plan" will be held at the Europe Parliament in September 2025 to outline key actions the European Commission should take, in order to position blue foods at the heart of the European Ocean Pact and sustainable food systems' transformation, corresponding to the different aspirational objectives of the Code.