Tapping into blue growth: the way forward for European Aquaculture

Aquaculture High Level Event

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What is the FEAP?

FEAP is a clear official representative of the sector with:

- 22 countries, 26 associations and federations, representing
  - 2,3 million t. production
  - € 8 billion turnover – as ex-farm value
  - Around €16 billion in added-value products
- More than 100 000 direct jobs – rural/coastal
  - Not so far off 200 000 jobs when we include upstream and downstream sectors

The European Fish Farming paradox

<u>1980- 2013</u>

From ~200 000 tons to 640 000 tons (EU)

No European or National Aquaculture strategic plans existed to develop the sector

<u>Since 2013</u>

Stable at ~640 000 tons

with clear, encouraging European and National strategic plans to develop the sector

Why should we develop aquaculture in Europe?

BECAUSE

- **the trade balance deficit consistently reaches a new record level every year. For 2015, it increased by seven percent (€1 billion) to €18 billion (USD 20.6 billion)**
- **there is no better protein transformer than fish and, somehow, developing aquaculture is protecting the planet (greenhouse gases, resource use…)**
- **European fish is healthy for European consumers**
- **Aquaculture preserves (& hopefully creates…) jobs in isolated rural/coastal areas (urban migration…)**

Please….let us work !

The first obstacle to developing European fish farming is the ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN:

- **In our beautiful European Regions, it is sure that they do not speak the same language as in Brussels or in the National Ministries that deal will aquaculture**
  - **3 to 6 years to obtain a new license**
  - **Fragility of the licenses in case of new regulations**
  - **More laws and regulations than in all other sectors**

The fish farmer is often alone to answer - particularly in States where aquaculture is developing or where agriculture/fisheries dominate

How to finance development of the fish farming sector ?

The second obstacle is FINANCING:

- **Waiting for the licence…to build and operate**
- **Investments**
  - **build the farm,**
  - **buy equipment…**
- **Then, several years of growth needed BEFORE the first sales**

Is this encouraging for a young entrepreneur or a new investor ??

The only financial value of the farm during this process is the capital investment and the live fish in stock

and for a bank……

Then, the Level Playing Field ?

The third obstacle to sustainable, sectoral development is the "Level Playing Field":

- **We are not afraid of fair competition**

BUT

- **We need that Non-European Producers must respect the same rules as us**
  - **Feed ingredients, veterinary medicines, social respect**

And finally, communication ?

- **There is poor understanding of**
  - **the advantages of European aquaculture**
  - **the commitment of the sector to sustainability**
- **To be efficient and effective, the communication of messages about these evident benefits has to reach**
  - **the consumer and, particularly,**
  - **the local levels - public and administrative**

Conclusions

- **Help us to solve the administrative burden.**
- **Help us to create a European Financing Warranty fund for the aquaculture farmers to finance the growth of their stocks (or their EMFF subsidies…)**
- **Be clear and imperious concerning the "Level Playing Field"**
- **Be ambitious and clear in communication campaigns**

In this case, yes we can increase the products "Farmed in the EU"