

DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

BY THE EUROPEAN FISHING COMMUNITIES ON THE FUTURE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN EUROPE AFTER BREXIT

We, representatives of European fishing communities, are gathered here in Santiago de Compostela, on October 23rd 2017, with one joint, shared, purpose. To call upon European governments, the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament to make fisheries a priority in the Brexit negotiations and to safeguard the economic and social future of European fishing and coastal communities.

European fishing and coastal communities have relied on the fishing industry for their social, economic and cultural development for centuries. Indeed – the fishing industry is at the heart of our shared culture and shared traditions in Europe. It has, for centuries, shaped lives and values throughout the continent and provided food for millions of Europeans.

Fisheries embody the ideals of the European Union, such as shared territorial sovereignty and sharing resources in the common interest of all Member States, like no other. Fishing communities know the value of borderless travel and cross border commerce. We have built links across geographic and language barriers for centuries – all the while prioritizing the importance of solidarity and cooperation in the face of common challenges.

Through this ethos of co-operation, best exemplified by years of joint sustainable management of shared fish stocks, the fishing industry has continuously supported coastal communities – providing valuable employment, income and stability.

The economic prosperity of coastal communities in European regions and countries bordering the Atlantic and the North Sea is closely linked to our relationship with the United Kingdom. We have, for ages, shared resources and fishing grounds with our British colleagues.

We note with concern that the planned departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union has created considerable uncertainty for the fisheries sector and for the coastal communities that the sector supports. These are communities that – in the most part – are already facing significant homegrown socio-economic challenges, independent of Brexit, such as maintaining sustainable employment and avoiding de-population.

We also note with concern that many British policy makers and fisheries professionals have signaled their intention to move away from a fisheries management model based on cooperation and from the acknowledgment of our economic interdependence. Many appear to see Brexit as an opportunity to exclude European fishermen from their traditional fishing grounds. Continued access to those waters is of fundamental importance for the survival and continued prosperity of our coastal communities.

We also note with concern that many in the UK see Brexit as an opportunity to unilaterally alter the distribution of catch quota. A distribution arrangement that has allowed our economic prosperity and has been the basis for sustainable management of our shared fish stocks.

We call upon European decision-makers to take into account the challenges faced by coastal communities in Europe. We call upon them to uphold the principle of reciprocity in trade relationships so as to make access to European markets for British seafood products conditional on access to fishing grounds for our fleets.

European decision-makers need to work to support fishing communities all across Europe by upholding the values that we all share. We ask these decision makers to aim for an agreement that will guarantee long-term economic prosperity for our communities and sustainable management of fish stocks.

By our very nature, and through our shared history, European fishing communities will be the first to experience the new relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union. The future social and economic prosperity of our communities - and the fishing industry – will depend on European policy-makers approaching the issue rationally, sensibly and with an understanding of the shared history of European fisheries in mind.

We stand here today, united in a common purpose to ensure that fisheries is a priority in the Brexit negotiations and to safeguard the social and economic future of our fishing communities and fishing industry.

Signed in Santiago de Compostela, October 23rd 2017

ABVV Belgian Transport Worker's Union
Ærø Kommune
ANOP
Bornholm Regionskommune
CFTC - syndicat des marins
CGT - fédération maritime
Cobrenord
Comité des pêches d'Aquitaine
Comité des pêches de Charente maritime
Comité des pêches de Corse
Comité des pêches de Gironde
Comité des pêches des Côtes d'Armor
Comité des pêches du Finistère
Comité des pêches Pyrénées atlantiques - Landes
Comité National des pêches
Confederation of Christian Trade Unions of Belgium
Coopération maritime
Faaborg-Midtfyn Kommune
FEDOPA
FFSPM
Fisheries Regions Network The Netherlands
Foyle Fishermen's cooperative
Fredrikshavn Kommune
Gemeente Knokke-Heiste
Gribskov Kommune

Halsnaes Kommune
Hjørring Kommune
Holstebro Kommune
Irish Fish processors and exporters association
Irish Fish Producer Organisation
Irish south & east Fish producer organisation
Kerteminde Kommune
Killybegs Fishermen's organisation
Læsø Kommune
Landkreis Vorpommern - Rügen
Langeland Kommune
Lemvig Kommune
Liberal Trade Union of Belgium
Municipality de Marne
Municipality Den Helder
Municipality Goeree-Overflakkee
Municipality Harlingen
Municipality Hollands Kroon
Municipality Katwijk
Municipality of Middelburg
Municipality of Schouwen-Duiveland
Municipality of Sluis
Municipality of Texel

Municipality of The Hague
Municipality of Urk
Municipality of Vlissingen
Municipality Velsen
Norddjurs Kommune
Organisation des pêcheurs normands
Pêcheurs d'Aquitaine
Provincie Flevoland
Provincie Groningen
Provincie Noord-Holland
Provincie West -Vlaanderen
Provincie Zeeland
Rederscentrale
Ringkøbing-Skjern Kommune
Stad Brugge
Stad Nieuwpoort
Stad Oostende
Stadt Cuxhaven
Stadt Rostock
Stadt Sassnitz
Stevns Kommune
Thisted Kommune
UAPF

Burgemeester
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Stadssecretaris
Kristof Bouren

G. Vanden Broucke.

K. Vandecasteele.

Wouter Alfabain

Emiel BROECKAERT

Jacques Heekel

Renaat LANDUYT,
De Burgemeester

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gedeputeerde voor visserij

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Provinciegriffier

a. Wilent

Jan Petersen

Myrte Hanssens-Nobels

Jørgen Otto Jørgensen
Mayor

Uwe Kuch

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Kommunikationschef

Niels Wichmann

Erik Flyvholm
Mayor

Bjorn Nelson
Bjorn Nelson
Borgemeister

Tobias Birch Johansen

H.C. ØSTERBY
Borgemeister

Christian Thygesen
Borgemeister

Kim Valentin

Roland Kuch

F. de la

A. Færk

Joh. D. D. Olsen

van der Vliet

Pimote!

