



GLOBE World Oceans Day Forum *Reforming the European Common Fisheries Policy*

In partnership with:



Hosted by:



Selfridges & Co. Department Store
London, June 8th 2011

Parliamentarians Declaration:

We, the Parliamentarians participating in the GLOBE World Oceans Day Forum on Reforming the European Common Fisheries Policy, held in Selfridges Department Store on the occasion of World Oceans Day, recognise that:

- **72% of assessed fish stocks in European waters are *overfished*;**¹
- **Between 2002-2008 on average between 30-40% of the fleet segments assessed operated at a loss each year;**²
- **The European Council sets Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits on average 23% higher than scientifically recommended sustainable limits.**³
- **Under the agreement of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, the EU is committed to maintaining and restoring fish stocks to sustainable levels⁴ by 2015;**

And considering the above:

Express our deep concern over the levels of overfishing of EU fish stocks, the devastating decline of parts of the EU fishing industry and the disregard of scientific advice on sustainable fishing levels.

Declare that the 2012 EU Common Fisheries Policy Reform represents a critical moment for the future sustainability of Europe's fishing communities and marine environment.

AND

Call with urgency on our parliamentary colleagues and government leaders to take global leadership on sustainable fisheries management and agree to implement an ambitious and radical reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy that guarantees the following fundamental conditions:

¹ 35th Plenary Meeting Report of the Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries PLEN-10-03, 8-12 November 2010, Brussels

² The 2010 Annual Economic Report on the European Fishing Fleet, Report EUR 24554 EN, Ed. John Anderson & Jordi Guillen, 2010

³ Communication from the Commission concerning a consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2012; 25/5/2011.

⁴ Defined as a level that can produce Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)



1. **Mandates, as committed by the EU under the Johannesburg Declaration, an end to overfishing by 2015⁵** through requiring that catch limits are based on achieving MSY⁶ for all stocks by 2015 as a minimum requirement and seeking to raise fish stocks above MSY to levels that restore maximum productivity of the marine environment through ecosystems based management;
2. **Ensures Good Environmental Status for the marine environment by prescribed deadlines** and full consistency between EU and international environment and fisheries policy requirements;
3. **Secures the future of Europe's fishing industry and fishing communities** by establishing environmental sustainability as the first policy objective including through the development of long-term management plans for all stocks;
4. **Ends the practice of Discarding** by requiring the implementation of bycatch reduction strategies for all fisheries and by obligating the landing of all fish and shellfish with derogation only for species proven to have a high survival rate on discarding;
5. **Aims to discourage the consumption of unsustainable and unsustainably fished stocks** through appropriate measures including market and consumer awareness programmes which aim to diversify seafood consumption, and the introduction of minimum criteria for seafood labelling and certification;
6. **Achieves true co-management of European fisheries** by establishing a transparent, regionalised framework based on eco-regions that devolves joint responsibility for implementation and management decisions to member states to work in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;
7. **Recognises the social and economic importance of coastal fishing communities** by preserving historic links between the fishing industry and local communities;
8. **Supports proven sustainable fishing methods** by allocating access rights on the basis of environmental sustainability, giving priority to vessels that utilise selective gear and low-impact methods of fishing;
9. **Commits to the long-term profitability of Europe's fisheries** by eliminating capacity-enhancing and environmentally harmful subsidies and redirecting funds to further support sustainable practices;
10. **Fully prepares for the sustainable transition of the industry** by redirecting subsidies towards and establishing programmes for alternative livelihoods, which include cross-sectoral partnerships on monitoring, control and surveillance which emphasise the role of fishers as stewards of the oceans;
11. **Ensures that decisions are made on the basis of the best available information** by requiring the immediate introduction of regular scientific assessments for all species, investing in fisher-science partnerships including self-sampling of catches;
12. **Commits to achieving fully documented fisheries** by using the most up-to-date technology to ensure real-time reporting of data to governments, industry and local communities; and ensuring full traceability throughout the supply chain to guarantee high standards of food safety and sustainability;

⁵ Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002

⁶ Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is a measure of sustainability characterized by a level of fishing mortality that will, on average, result in a stock size that produces the maximum sustainable yield



13. **Prevents fishing partnership agreements from exporting EU overcapacity to developing country waters** by establishing as a basic requirement mandatory stock assessments and management plans, consistent with the achievement of MSY and Good Environmental Status for all fisheries;
14. **Makes fishing partnership agreements consistent with international development priorities and ensures the protection of human rights** including by establishing development strategies for achieving sustainable domestic fisheries with timelines for enabling their self-sufficiency;
15. **Commits to advancing European environmental and marine law through relevant international and regional bodies** dealing with fisheries and ocean environments in order to ensure a coherent approach to the conservation and sustainable management of the European and global marine environment;
16. **Supports the restoration of marine biodiversity and resources** through the adoption of an EU-wide network of Marine Reserves covering at least 10% of European waters by 2020 as required by the Nagoya Aichi targets⁷ and with the ambition of achieving 30%⁸ in order to promote biomass, preserve marine biodiversity and benefit fish stocks and local communities;
17. **Encourages the sustainable development of Europe's aquaculture industry** through the introduction of a comprehensive regulatory framework that places environmental sustainability as its first principle.
18. **Calls on the European Commission and European governments to ban the practice of shark-finning at sea in EU waters and by EU flagged vessels in other waters** and to ensure that all landed sharks have their fins naturally attached.

⁷ Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Convention on Biological Diversity 10th Conference of the Parties, Nagoya Aichi, Japan, 2010

⁸ Recommendations of the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa, 2003