



European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT) joint answer to the public consultation on an 'EU Ecolabel for fishery & aquaculture products'.

Today, there are many labels for environmental purposes such as eco-labels for fishery and aquaculture products on the EU-market. Eco-labels respond generally to an increasing demand from consumers and stakeholders for greater visibility of companies that show their engagement towards sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine biodiversity. However, the lack of transparency on fisheries products is a problem. Sustainability labels only cover fisheries management issues and not the social conditions of the workers in the supply chain.

With the upcoming adoption of the UN post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and a new global climate framework, ETF and EFFAT believe labels should be developed in a more holistic approach of sustainability and should encompass the three pillars of sustainability i.e. environmental, economic and social.

ETF and EFFAT believe that EU and global corporate social responsibility throughout supply chains in the fishery and aquaculture sector, from catcher to counter, should be strengthened by means of sustainable sourcing practices, adherence to internationally recognised principles and guidelines on human rights, labour, employment and fair trading practices.

The following principles should apply to sustainability labels for fishery and aquaculture products:

- Consumers should have the opportunity to express their environmental, social and economic concerns through their purchasing behaviour and the market mechanism;
- Incentives for producers in Europe and in other countries to supply quality fishery and aquaculture products that meet ethical, human rights and labour obligations in order to gain market share should be enhanced;
- Quality of fishery and aquaculture products comes together with quality of working conditions and training. Social standards for workers should be raised throughout the chain, from catcher to counter. In this respect, social sustainability shall be at the core of the Common Fisheries Policy. The EU agenda shall be aligned with the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 188; and
- Labels for fishery and aquaculture products should be practical, viable and verifiable and contribute to compliance with human rights obligations and labour standards.

EFFAT is the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors. As a European Trade Union Federation representing 120 national trade unions from 35 European countries, EFFAT defends the interests of more than 2.6 million members towards the European Institutions, European employers' associations and transnational companies.

The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) is a pan-European trade union organisation that embraces transport trade unions from the European Union, the European Economic Area and Central and Eastern European countries. The ETF represents more than 3.5 million transport workers from 231 transport unions and 41 European countries, in the following sectors: railways, road transport and logistics, maritime transport, inland waterways, civil aviation, ports & docks, tourism and fisheries.

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