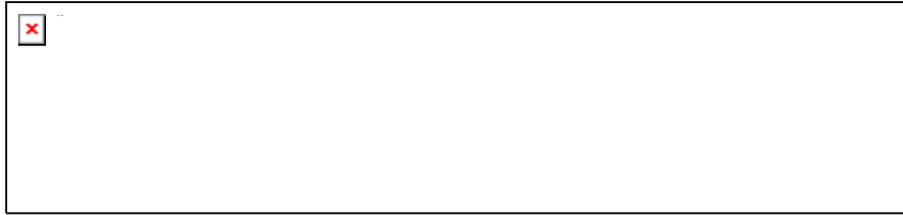


Meeting in Luxemburg



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### **HARD CASH AND TIMING REMAIN THE CRITICAL ISSUES FOR IRISH FISHING INDUSTRY AFTER TODAY'S COUNCIL OF EU FISHERIES MINISTERS MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG**

The Minister for Fisheries Tony Killeen this evening advised the Federation of Irish Fishermen that the EU is still on track for the introduction of a short-term aid package of emergency aid. FIF is however **very disappointed** that the process was not progressed towards finality at today's Council of Fisheries Ministers meeting held in Luxembourg.

The timetable for agreeing emergency aid now moves to the next meeting of the Council of Ministers on July 15<sup>th</sup>, something Irish fishermen - whose patience is already at an end - will not welcome. FIF has made it clear again to the Ministers that a nothing short of a comprehensive package backed by additional monies will be acceptable and that failure to do so will result in catastrophe.

FIF met Ministers Killeen and Smith a number of times in Luxembourg over the past two days to reiterate strongly all the points made at earlier meetings and to discuss the progress of negotiations including the stance of various countries for and against emergency aid.

FIF is encouraged that the Ministers agreed a substantial Council Regulation on banning Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishery products entering the EU as well as robust control mechanisms to give effect to this ban. This will go some way to reducing the grossly unfair trade advantages for third countries, which have undermined producer prices for Irish and indeed EU fishermen.

The process of reviewing Celtic Sea Cod quotas was not progressed significantly today, despite serious efforts by France and Ireland. This is a vital issue if scandalous discards of marketable Cod is to be reduced.

FIF undertook to engage with the Commission and Irish MEPs again in coming days to ensure that there is a clear understanding that there must be an immediate and comprehensive package of measures.

Meanwhile, the other national issues which have come to the fore continue to be pursued vigorously by FIF. While FIF welcomes last Friday's acceptance by the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority of the need for a fresh start, it will be pressing for substantive action to give effect to this and the creation of a fair control regime which is proportional to each country's fishing effort in Irish waters.

FIF is also pursuing the de-criminalisation of minor fisheries offences and the introduction of Administrative Sanctions which are the norm in the EU as well as a range of other issues.

**ENDS**

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**Note to Editors:**

*The Federation of Irish Fishermen (FIF) was established in 2007 and is the umbrella organisation for the four main Irish Fish Producer Organisations (FPOs) namely,*

*The Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation Ltd (IS&EFPO),*

*The Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd (IFPO),*

*The Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation. Ltd., (IS&WFPO)*

*The Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd (KFO)*

*Presently, the FIF represents over 90% of the Irish fishing fleet over 12m and is run by a Board of 8 directors.*

*The position of Chairman is rotated between the CEOs of the four FPOs and Michael Walsh, CEO Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation currently holds the Chair.*

*The FIF's key aim is to provide a unified voice for the Irish Fishing Industry and to provide an active input into all policy making decisions both nationally and internationally.*