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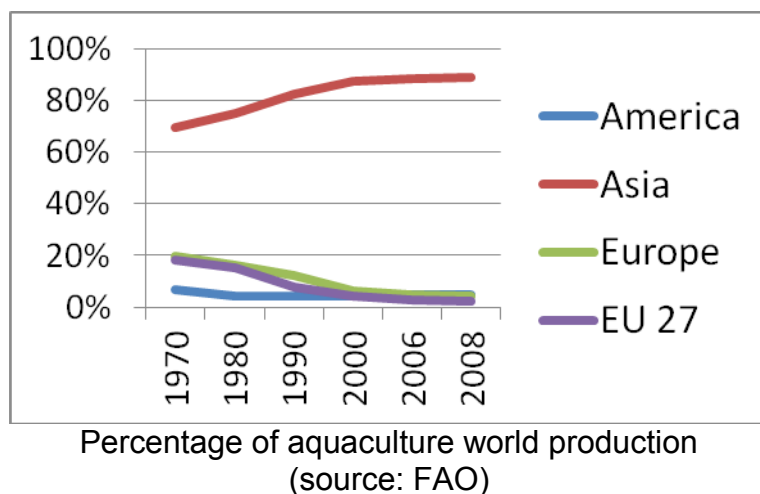
## **The EU Common Fisheries Policy reform**

### **EU needs to promote development of EU Aquaculture as strategic objective**

FEFAC, representing the European fish feed industry, supports the legislative proposal on the Common Fisheries Policy Reform, and the current policy orientation at EP and Council level as a significant milestone for EU aquaculture. The important role played by aquaculture and the need to promote its sustainable development are clearly recognized in the proposals and draft report of the EP rapporteur MEP Ulrike Rodust on the CFP reform proposals. FEFAC also shares the objective assigned to aquaculture to contribute to the preservation of the food production potential on a sustainable basis throughout the EU so as to guarantee long-term food security for European citizens and to contribute to the growing world fish food demand. Aquaculture is also important in terms of employment in coastal and rural areas.

Aquaculture will, however, remain under shared competence between the EU and Member States. It is, therefore, crucial that the new proposals catch the interest of potential investors and provide an incentive for interested Member States to submit national plans for the development of sustainable aquaculture in order to benefit from the new co-funding mechanism foreseen by the Common Maritime and Fishery Fund. Regarding the need to associate stakeholders in the decision-making process, the proposal to create and Advisory Council for Aquaculture is also highly welcomed by FEFAC. The planned reauthorisation of non-ruminant processed animal proteins would make a significant contribution to improve the sustainability of protein supplies to the fish feed sector.

Aquaculture production is increasing globally and the CFP proposals stress the need to step up EU aquaculture production. FEFAC, therefore, encourages the EU policy-makers to set forth specific growth targets for EU aquaculture, estimating that the EU aquaculture has the technological know-how, capacity and access to sustainable raw material resources to triple its current level of production.



Today, estimates indicate the European Union production to be around 650 000 tons of fish, with the production of Norway and Turkey adding around 760 000 tons and 100 000 tons respectively. The growth of EU aquaculture is, however, not sufficient to balance the trends observed during the last decades that is to say a fast development of seafood consumption in Europe and a decline of European fisheries stocks. This led to a situation in which imports account for more than 60% of fish and seafood supply in Europe. Therefore, FEAC welcomes that the CFP proposals acknowledge the need to step up EU aquaculture production.

We also observed that the value of EU imports decreased while the overall volume increased. This means that EU production is losing market share in favour of low price competitors. To face this situation, the EU aquaculture and fisheries should both defend their significant niche market and challenge the low price imports. Aquaculture is an important resource to produce high quality seafood and a stable supply of competitive high quality feed is a key factor of success. To challenge the imports, the breeding of fast growing species suitable for processing is needed as an alternative to low price imported species. R&D efforts also need to be intensified in order to fulfill the new feeding needs. From a regulatory perspective, a level playing field with third country is highly needed to face this challenge.

