



Fact sheet on EU aquaculture policy

The development of the European aquaculture sector is one of the top priorities of the Directorate-General for Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE). The Commission has published [Strategic Guidelines](#) presenting common priorities and general objectives at EU level:

- reducing administrative burden
- improving access to space and water
- increasing competitiveness
- exploiting competitive advantages due to high quality, health and environmental standards¹.

The guidelines ask all EU countries to set up multiannual plans to promote aquaculture. The Commission will help with the coordination and exchange of best practices on the basis of these plans. It has also launched a communication campaign called "[Farmed in the EU](#)" to promote the consumption of EU aquaculture products.

In the past decade, the aquaculture sector remained relatively stagnant in the EU when it was one of the fastest growing food sectors in the world. This situation seems paradoxical as the EU is the world largest seafood consumer and is obliged to import 70% of the seafood sold in its market.

Space and new protein sources are key challenges for the development of this sector. "Aquafeeds have been seriously improved in terms of formulation, ingredient sourcing and technology, leading to very high rates of feed use efficiency. [...] A lot of focus has been put on replacement of fish oil/meal by vegetable and other sources", reads the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) [website](#).

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/aquaculture/index_en.htm

