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FEFAC CONTRIBUTION TO THE CALL FOR EVIDENCE REGARDING THE VISION 2040 FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

FEFAC welcomes the initiative of the EU Commission to draft a Vision 2040 for Fisheries and Aquaculture. We however believe that Fisheries and Aquaculture are extremely different sectors, with the latter more comparable to the agriculture / livestock sector. Consistency between the vision for Aquaculture and Agriculture is therefore essential.

In addition to the various aspects considered in the Call for Evidence which we subscribe to, we would like to emphasise the key role played by animal nutrition innovative solutions to support fish health & welfare, reduce environmental emissions and improve zootechnical performance. Providing sufficient financial support to more research & innovation in fish nutrition strategies is essential to exploit the many possibilities offered by aquaculture to contribute to sustainable food systems (see FEFAC [publication](#)). In particular the scope for increase circularity via more effective use of co-products from the food industry as well as new protein sources from low trophic marine species (polychaetes, zooplankton) can significantly facilitate this development. Tools have been developed by the feed sector to allow [sharing information](#) on the environmental footprint of feed production as well as on expectations in terms of abatement of environmental emissions through specific techniques. This will contribute to speed up the uptake of these solutions by fish farmers, if accompanied by proper support measures. The recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Council on [Fish feed circularity](#) should also be carefully considered.

The Vision 2040 should also draw the lessons of the limited success of past EU Commission initiatives to support the development of the EU aquaculture sector. One critical bottleneck is the limited access to certain feed additives or specific feed additives formulations for use in water. This is even more relevant for species other than Salmonids, for which a reform of the feed additives legislation becomes urgent to encourage the extension of authorisation to minor species and provide applicants for feed additive authorisation with sufficient market protection. Preserving access to already authorised feed additives is also extremely important with the question of access to certain trace-element compounds that are critical for fish health and welfare being at the moment also a case of concern.

As a conclusion we call on the EU Commission to take into consideration in its Vision 2040 the outcome of its Study on Feed for Aquaculture whose publication is expected in coming weeks.