

Les principales nations de pêche s'engagent à promouvoir la gestion de la capacité de la pêche durable mondiale

The European Union (EU) and Ministers from the United States of America, Japan, Philippines, Colombia and Republic of Indonesia signed in Thessaloniki a Joint Statement on efforts to promote sustainable fishing capacity management on the global scale.

This initiative, which was signed in 1999 but has since been abandoned, revives and strengthens the international commitment to address this problem.

The international organisation Oceana stresses that with around 87 per cent of the world's fisheries overexploited, global action to address the problem of overcapacity is essential to restoring some of the world's fisheries.

"This joint declaration constitutes the strongest call in years to put an end to overfishing in the world's oceans by sustainably managing the fleet and eliminating subsidies that promote overcapacity," said Xavier Pastor, Executive Director of Oceana in Europe. "Oceana welcomes this step and encourages signatories to put their words into practice by ensuring the effective implementation of this commitment," he added.

This initiative was led by the European Commission and the EU Greek Presidency, and shows the ambition of the EU to balance the capacity of its fleet with available resources. The EU has one of the world's largest fleets (80,000 vessels), including an external fleet that operates in many parts of the world under various international agreements.

In the joint statement, the parties say they intend to cooperate to "stress the importance of international cooperation to manage fishing capacity at the regional and global scale in an effective way".

They also want to "support effective tools and measures in regional and international organisations which will help address fishing overcapacity" and encourage the implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA) at the level of States, Entities and RFMOs.

Further, the signatories express their intention to work together towards "measures necessary to manage fishing capacity in a manner that ensures the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources" and explore possible voluntary joint initiatives.

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