

## Norway wants to remove trade barriers for seafood exports to the EU

Norway is negotiating to remove the trade barriers faced by Norwegian fish exports to the European Union.

The European Union has asked Norway to increase its contributions to the European Economic Area (EEA). However, Norway's fisheries minister Elisabeth Aspaker has said the EU first has to improve trade conditions for Norwegian seafood.

Aspaker raised the issue during a meeting with Germany's agriculture and food minister Christian Schmidt in Berlin on Monday, to discuss Norway's contributions to the EEA.

The EU is the main market for the Norwegian seafood industry, taking in 62% of Norway's seafood exports last year.

"Norwegian seafood are imposed high tariffs and a cumbersome customs quota regime in the EU market. Removing obstacles would be beneficial both for the EU processing industry, which is significantly dependent on seafood imports from Norway, and for the Norwegian seafood industry," said Aspaker in a statement issued by the ministry.

According to the ministry, Norwegian seafood contributes to an estimated 12,000 jobs in the EU seafood sector.

"The EU has made demands for a substantial increase in Norway's financial contribution to the EEA. For Norway, a satisfactory solution to the question of market access for fish is a prerequisite for the continuation of Norway's contribution," said Aspaker.

One of the most important EU member states, Germany is also a big seafood market both in terms of processing and consumption. Norway exported NOK 2.5 billion worth of seafood to Germany in 2014.

Source : <http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2015/01/13/norway-wants-to-remove-trade-barriers-for-seafood-exports-to-the-eu/>