

PRESS RELEASE

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FMAP Welcomes European Parliament Support for Stronger Fisheries Enforcement

The Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP) welcomes the European Parliament's backing for legislation aimed at strengthening the implementation of internationally agreed fisheries measures and congratulates Maltese MEP Thomas Bajada on his work as rapporteur.

For the Federation, the priority is to ensure that shared conservation commitments are matched by consistent and effective enforcement across the Mediterranean. European fishermen must have confidence that their compliance efforts are supported by comparable scrutiny of other fleets exploiting the same fish stocks.

Healthy wild fish stocks and responsible fisheries management are also essential to the long-term future of Maltese aquaculture, particularly bluefin tuna farming.

"The sea does not recognise political boundaries. Protecting Mediterranean fish stocks requires shared responsibility and effective enforcement of agreed rules, whether vessels fly an EU or a non-EU flag," said Dr Charlon Gouder, CEO of the Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers.

"European action is important, but it must be matched by stronger cooperation across the Mediterranean. We need coordinated monitoring, better information sharing and effective action against those who fail to comply, so that responsible operators are supported and conservation efforts deliver lasting results. We need stronger cooperation to protect our shared fish stocks, beyond the Nations' 12-nautical-mile territorial waters."

The Federation commends MEP Thomas Bajada for placing fair competition and effective fisheries enforcement firmly on the European agenda. His work provides an important foundation for stronger Mediterranean cooperation.